

~ WORONI ~

Journal of the ANU Students' Association

Published by Jon Nicholson
for the ANU Students Association
Printed by Queanbeyan Age

Registered for posting as a publication
Category B. Subscription \$5.00 p.a.

Orientation Week '77



Photographs by Robert Brown
Cindy Aberley
Phil Dickie

IN THIS ISSUE

BOOK SHOP - LECTURERS TO BLAME

S.A. MEETING

FRASER DEMONSTRATION - INSIDE AND OUT

HOMOSEXUALITY IS BULLSHIT

THE URANIUM LOBBY

EDITORIAL

EDITOR REPLIES TO CRITICISMS

Some of the old regime and their sympathisers have been actively criticising me for various actions and attitudes as they have a perfect right to do. However, where such criticism is in glorious disregard of the facts and where it is phrased so as to be essentially meaningless I reserve the right to defend myself. A radical feminist recently accused me of discrimination against radical feminists. As she could not produce any evidence of any single instance of discrimination the allegation remains to be proved.

Orientation Handbook editors Julia Imogen and Isabella Martinas insinuated in their editorial that I had 'no aims' and 'no political convictions'. Again it remains to be proved - I think the facts point to the contrary. The very last paragraph of the Handbook is interesting. What does 'the only Press in Canberra with any Social conscience' mean, if anything? 'Social conscience' seems to be one of those phrases which can be tacked on indiscriminately to anything of which one approved.

I might venture to point out that by printing with the Queenbeyan Age I am saving the students approximately two thousand dollars while Woroni is printed in one third of the time Progress Press used to take.

What price this undefined entity 'social conscience'? Enough said.

The hazy use of words must surely be one cause of the low standard of political debate on this campus.

Some of the political monologues I've heard around this place could almost be defined as 'speaking a lot without saying anything you can be pinned down to.' It is unfortunate because a much abused word ceases to have any useful meaning at all. When first used the word 'fascist' referred fairly clearly to a certain class of political figures. Now, if you call someone a fascist without further definition, all you are saying is that you don't like their politics much. This corruption of meaning is a great pity because fascists do still exist - (not all on the right) and it is useful to be able to denote them somehow.

As an editor it disturbs me

when I receive articles phrased in a vague, obscure, or hackneyed fashion. A lot of political writing relies heavily on stale imagery, stock phrases, sweeping and simplistic generalisations. Political writing can be fresh and interesting and need not take up the tone (and interest) of religious exhortations.

George Orwell, himself a superb writer on matters political, formulated a few guidelines for political writers I think are worth quoting:

- 1 Never use a metaphor, simile or other figure of speech which you are used to seeing in print.
- 2 Never use a long word where a short one would do.
- 3 If it is possible to cut out a word always cut it out.
- 4 Never use the passive where you can use the active.
- 5 Never use a foreign phrase, a scientific word or a jargon word if you can think of an everyday English equivalent.
- 6 Break any of these rules sooner than say anything barbarous.

These rules are not mandatory, or even a guarantee of good writing but keep them in mind for my sake, Woroni's and your own.

WORONI

Vol 29 No. 2
Editor Phil Dickie
P.O. Box 4 Canberra
Phone: 492444

This Woroni produced by -

Cindy Aberley, Robert Brown
Robert Arden, Robert Lake,
Phil Dickie, Erica Callen, Greg
Carman, Cynthia Coombe,
Richard Webb and others.

Advertising is worth a 10% commission to the student bringing it in. Contact the editor for rates and details.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sir,
Re: Toad Blurb, O-Week Handbook
Whilst applauding the effort and polish that has been put into this year's Orientation Handbook, we would wish to disassociate ourselves from a statement published under our names.

It appeared in the piece we wrote describing Toad Hall, and we quote: 'The only hitch is that first years can't live there, [Toad Hall] but this is something it would be worth attempting to change in 1977. See your president or welfare officer in this regard.' This is contrary to our view.

Firstly, there is no blanket ban on first years; the criterion for exclusion being that if a person has left home for the first time or is coming to University straight from school, then he or she is not a suitable person for Toad Hall.

The reason being that a person in this situation not only has to cope with the new experiences of university and life away from home but also has to deal with the problems (far from small) of having to look after himself in an independent fashion. Not the least of the skills required is the ability to concoct reasonable meals. Again, there is no recourse to wardens, sub-wardens, tutors, etc.

Far be it for us to suggest that all first years straight from school and home would be hopeless Toads. But it is our considered opinion (and the opinion of Toad policy-makers since the hall opened) that aspiring Toads should have the benefit of a year at university or for example, time in the workforce or time overseas. In this way they may acquire the maturity and independence Toad requires.

Yours sincerely

Iain Laird

Mark Herron

(Chairman of the Governing Body)

The Editor, Woroni

I am concerned to rectify some of the lies, distortions of fact and total inaccuracies that have been presented as true about the Union, the most recent being in the Orientation Week Handbook. In the process I have to more fully explain Union policy to all students.

Facilities

The Union does recognise the inadequacy of its building. It is continually attempting to change it for the better, but the large amount of money spent on cleaning up after the very few pigs who have no thought for the comfort of others is money which cannot be spent on improvements on either the fabric or amenities of the building. May be a few more members should see the place as our cleaners see it at 5am - cigarettes ground into the carpet; broken glass in heaps, filth all over the building. The list goes on. Vacuum hoses are shot to shreds in 6 months; \$25 chairs are slashed and ruined within days of their first use; large numbers of glasses and quantities of crockery are stolen each week; \$700 worth of Refectory trays were stolen last year. The litany seems to be endless. The most recent illustration is the bar, where we spent \$5,000 over the Christmas vacation redecorating. You may not like the new paint scheme, but it is a great improvement over last year and we have also removed the pool tables. Nevertheless, many of the problems in this Union come from the attitude of those

students who seems to think that the Union is fair game for anybody; thus the desecration of three newly painted walls was allowed to happen in a crowded bar. The Union is only what members make of it, and it is

only worth improving areas in the Union if the people who want to use them respect them, and if they view others who destroy them with annoyance and therefore force them to stop their vandalism.

Security

The problem of admission of non-members, especially teeny boppers, is not easily solved. It is both a help and a hindrance that the Union was designed as a corridor. As such it is useful for the whole campus community during the day; a complete headache as far as restricting entrance is concerned at night. Again the member who 'signs in' a stranger as a 'guest' is to be roundly condemned. This year

frequent membership checks will be made to weed out those who come into the building before the doorman started duty. This is inevitably going to cause inconvenience to some members, but it is totally necessary for the good of all.

Food

Food services in the Union are appropriate to the circumstances we find the student population in. People buy our food because it is the best food that they can get for the lowest possible cost. In 1974 wages costs doubled. The wages component of food is now anything up to 70%. One fact that is overlooked is that if students are in real poverty they simply cannot afford to have other people preparing their food anymore. The simplest and cheapest way is for them to cook it themselves, and this is why Garran Hall has gone over to self-cook facilities.

We accept that there have been complaints about the fact that it is not possible to purchase food outside normal Refectory hours. To this end we are going to open a coffee shop in the foyer of the Union. There have been plans for this for quite a while and we are now awaiting equipment so that

we can install it and make it operative. This facility will enable the Union to have a refreshment service at times that we would not otherwise be open.

As to usage, quite frankly the cash registers tell the story. The Union serves 30-35% of the on-campus population every day. Our real growth, excluding inflation, has far exceeded the growth of the on-campus population given the profusion of food outlets for staff on campus and this clearly indicates that more students are now using our services.

Employment

As a matter of policy the Union management gives priority of employment to members - all other aspects being equal. As a result, most bar and function staff are members; over half the pay roll (or about \$110,000 last year) goes to members. There are two categories of 'member staff' - proven and experienced workers who have virtually full-time employment; and those who are less experienced or want fewer hours and are thus rotated on the rosters. Given the high wages we must now pay, there is simply no room for inefficiency within the Union.

Conclusion

The Union does expect criticism from all sources. It welcomes the constructive criticism because we realise that the Union is not perfect and we do have problems. On the other hand, we do try to do our best. Our best will always be not quite good enough

because we are hampered by the lack of financial and other resources. With a clear understanding of the problems that confront the Union I hope that any assessment of the Union is balanced and reasonable.

Richard McKinnon
Chairman, Union Board of
Management
8/3/77

CAMPUS NEWS

News is what someone, somewhere wants to suppress. Everything else is advertising.

Woroni takes news items and news tips. Contact the editor.

UNION BOARD. BY-ELECTIONS LIKELY

Following the resignation of two members of the Union Board of Management, Liz O'Brien and Ian Jordan, elections are likely to be held for the vacant positions. It is understood that the Union Board will probably consider elections at its next meeting. Last year's Board election became surprisingly controversial following the nominations of a 'Moderate Coalition', members of which were also members of the ANU Liberal Society. Of the seven members of the Moderate Coalition only one was elected to the ten-member Union Board.

ONLY ONE FIGHT

Senior bouncer for the Union, Mr Steve Hedges, reported only one fight during Orientation Week. Orientation week director Greg Ellis was involved.

OUTBREAK OF FOOT IN MOUTH IN LAW

A Law lecturer did nothing to inspire confidence among his students when he began a lecture: 'Succession is about dead people but that doesn't necessarily mean it's not a live subject.' Continued Mr Rowland 'Come and see me anytime, I won't be in my office, I'll be at home' (No home address or phone number supplied). 'Anyway see Geddes because he knows more about succession than I do.' Following which, an enterprising student approached Woroni with the story.

SO THAT'S WHAT IT IS . . .

From a report in the Canberra Times of March 8 comes news of a judgement of Mr Nicholls, SM, in which it was stated that the conjunction of the words 'boiled bullshit' in the context of a protest against the quality of the food at the ANU Union (that's our union, folks) might not be offensive.

However, the man before him had carried a placard reading 'McDonald's Hamburgers are boiled bullshit', outside a store of that same name, and was duly convicted of offensive behaviour. There's a lesson in that somewhere!

The **EDUCATION ACTION GROUP** is a group of activists organised around the board question of education. They concern themselves with campaigns on such issues as student financing (TEAS, opposition to Loans Scheme, etc.); assessment; quality of education; democratic education (student-staff control) and the role of education in a modern capitalist economy such as Australia's.

The group welcomes participation from all students and staff interested in action around the question raised by these issues.

Our next meeting will be held on Monday 21 March in the Union Music Listening Room at 7 pm.

YOUR EDUCATION IS TOO IMPORTANT TO BE LEFT TO THE PROFESSORS: JOIN US TO FIGHT FOR A DEMOCRATIC EDUCATION.

0-WEEK SMOKE-IN RAGING SUCCESS

ARTS AND FAILURE

FELIX IMITATORIA - AN EPIDEMIC?

After the exams last year, a rather pungent odour rose over the A.D. Hope-Haydon Allen area of campus, leaving in its wake sick, suicidal students and corpses of those who had inhaled the fumes. These victims, or 'failures' as the Faculty of Arts colloquially refers to them, had broken the written and unwritten laws of 'plagiarism'.

As they found out, contact with the disease causes immediate failure or grade depression followed in both cases by psychological stress and in some cases allergies to University, courses or departments.

The Faculty of Arts has diagnosed the illness in many cases, through different practitioners (in the English and History departments, for example) and lists the symptoms:

'Plagiarism can be defined as "the appropriation, by copying, summarising and paraphrasing, of another's ideas or argument, without acknowledgement."'

[ANU, Faculty of Arts, 72/1977, 15/2/77, 'Statement made by the Dean on Plagiarism to Faculty at its Meeting on 2 December 1976.' (W.S. Ramson)].

Ramson continues on after this definition and describes the severity of the 'disease' and its 'cures'. He includes the following statement of the attitude of the Faculty, which in my mind is indicative of the extreme lack of concern by him of the consequences of 'cures' for plagiarism.

'[E]arly in a student's career at the University or early in a given course *apparent* plagiarism can be equated with *poor scholarship* . . . and is therefore inadvertent and unintended plagiarism [.]. I feel that the options open range from allowing resubmission without penalty to giving no marks . . . [This] should not apply to end of semester or end of year assessments when there is no opportunity for resubmission, the options therefore ranging from no mark for that assignment . . . to outright failure. In my own view, severe marking down is not an adequate penalty, and extenuating circumstances (such as stress) are not admissible.'

(Emphasis mine)

This statement raises questions as to the subjectivity and harshness of staff on the question of plagiarism. Firstly, what is the difference between 'apparent' and substantiated plagiarism? The only case where I feel one could substantiate plagiarism is in the case of large slabs of texts being copied out without quotation or acknowledgement. How can one



Photograph: Phil Dickie

discern *original* ideas from those copied from others? One can't, but it seems that judgements are always made such that it is impossible to reach a conclusion independently of a theorist (especially if you're a student). What are the criteria for determining whether an idea (not a word-for-word statement of someone else's opinion which can easily be spotted) is plagiarised or not?

I have met four people who have been accused of plagiarism in my entire university career (five years) and three of those were last year and all in the departments of English and History. One third-year English student, although quite highly regarded by his tutor, was accused by some of using a 'crib' (criticism of literary works) although he had not. He maintained that it was original and he was very lucky. As a bright student with an impeccable record, he was given the benefit of the doubt.

But what about the first-year students who had been accused. One such victim was accused of plagiarising in a take-home exam.

On the grounds that one question of a four-question paper was deemed 'plagiarised', she was automatically failed on the whole exam (worth 25%) although one question, a practical criticism of an unseen poem, could not possibly be plagiarised. Also, one other question was *suspected* of unoriginality (as, I might add, was work marked much earlier in the year but up to this point, perfectly acceptable).

She was then formally accused, questioned and her 'credit' essays (not 'pass' essays) confiscated for

scrutiny. She was failed in the unit and as Ramson's statement says, 'cases should be resolved within departments' so that no appeal system is available within the Faculty of Arts. In the aforementioned inquiry she was treated like a criminal and therefore was subjected to unwarranted stress and persecution. Even if she had been guilty of the 'crime', her inexperience should have resulted in lenience and an alternative to outright failure (either a supplementary examination or a consideration of all work minus the 'plagiarised' work).

Similar cases to this have been reported to the Student's Association but the extent of allegations is not certain since cases in all faculties are apparent. The English department seems to be paranoid about it, although it seems to be the hardest department in which to prove plagiarism with so much of the written work being subjective interpretation of another's writings.

One of the bases of the examination system is the avoidance of the plagiarism which is evident in continuous assessment. However, in my mind, this produces great stress, inconsistency, random excellence and poor performance. If academics continue to exhibit paranoia with regard to the entire undergraduate population in order to catch the small minority who are guilty of plagiarism (of a deliberate kind) then students must suffer grave injustices.

Those people who have been unjustly treated already or who are accused in the future should contact the Students Association immediately for help and advice.

Clive Mackillop

LOANS — A WORD FROM THE COMMITTEE

You may not know it but during the last vacation the Commonwealth Minister for Education set up a Committee to examine the question of student loans.

Very few students are so well off that they do not need to worry about money. So any investigation into student financing should be of interest to you.

The Committee particularly wants to know what students think about loans and is giving students until 1 April to lodge submissions. That is not much time but everybody else has been expected to get their contributions in by 1 March. The Committee itself has to finalise its report by the end of May.

If you are thinking of letting the Committee have your views but are pressed for time and are looking for a shortcut, it is not a bad idea to try to get hold of a copy of the paper the Committee has already circulated fairly widely. The paper explores a number of possible approaches to loans and looks a bit further than the more obvious advantages and disadvantages of loans. Copies of the paper are available from the State Offices of the Commonwealth Department of Education and the Secretary of the Committee, whose address is PO Box 826, Woden, ACT 2606.

One thing should be made clear. The Committee is not obliged to come up with a recommendation for loans. The question is an open one and it is in the Committee's power to recommend against loans. It is worth noting that in formulating its

recommendations, the Committee must take into account public opinion. This is where your ideas are important.

The basic questions the Committee is interested in are —

- Is there a need for a system of student loans? If so, what purpose should it serve and how should it be related to the present system of grants?
- Who should be able to get loans? What consideration should be given to their present courses, their previous studies, their parents' income, the reasons why they are borrowing?
- How big should the loans be both annually and in total? How should they be repaid?
- Who should administer the loans?

Have you got any ideas on any one or all of these questions? If you have, let the Committee know what they are. You can write individually or make your contribution through a student organisation but whatever you plan to do, do it quickly.

The address to send contributions to is —

The Secretary
Committee on Student Loans
PO Box 826
WODEN, ACT 2606

Make sure they get there by 1 April — sooner if possible.

NB For a slightly divergent view of student loans see the article in *Campus News* in the last issue of *Woroni* (available in the library).

ROLL YOUR OWN EMPLOYMENT

In late November 1975, Student Employment organised a meeting of students interested in taking part in a children's program to be run during the following School holidays. The upshot was a scheme called Student Community Holiday Activities program (SCHAP). Relying on a grant of \$2,700 from the Children's Commission, the scheme was to provide \$100 per week employment for 16 students, and care and supervision for 130 children in Kingsley St. Hall for three weeks, with 40 of those children coming for free due to either their home life or inability to pay. Provision was made in the grant to pay for the 40 free places, equipment, excursions, office costs and pre-scheme wages.

During the three weeks before the scheme Student Employment went close to killing SCHAP at least three times, and although the idea itself was vague, uncertain and untested, it eventually came to fruition but with only half the number of children expected, no real organisation and a drastic cut in everybody's wages and enjoyment.

Although almost all the supervisors were heard to mutter that they would never again be involved in such a scheme, at least two were present when a new scheme began to form in October-November, 1976. Renamed CHAPS (Childrens Holiday Activities Program by Students), a grant of \$3000 was obtained from the same place (under the new name of "The Office of Child Care") for the supervision of 90 children by 9 student supervisors over 5 weeks in the same locale. CHAPS began publicity, liaison, and materials scrounging two months before it was to begin, on the 20th December. This gave 9 weeks clear to organise (rather than the two that had been effectively available to SCHAP due to the fact that the last had been the Christmas-New Year week). Add to this a comprehensive publicity campaign and more competitive rates

(\$2.00 per day with family discounts against a flat \$2.50 per day per child) and it is not hard to see why CHAPS was a raging success. Attendance averaged at the hoped for 90, but by the last two weeks we came to expect at least 100 there each day. An additional factor in our favour was the fine, sunny weather, which lasted for the five weeks (SCHAP, however, had rain on 8 of its 15 working days).

The most pleasing aspect of the venture was that it was totally set up and controlled by students with no hint of outside interference. The problem with having no meddling fingers, however, is that the continuity of such a scheme is at risk. Although CHAPS made a special effort to leave enough records behind for anyone to set it up again, there is no guarantee that it will be continued, even though it has been shown to be profitable and now has a large community following (a recently distributed questionnaire shows that 80% of CHAPS children would come again). One possibility would be a Community Employment Group attached to the Students' Association. Such a body could facilitate a number of student enterprises by co-ordinating advertising, providing office space, S.A. stationery, and procuring and storing equipment, as well as staffing and programming various schemes. This group would not be competing with Student Employment, but complementing it, insofar as it would be concerned with creating employment, not waiting for it to fall like honey-dew from the heavens onto our waiting laps.

This group would be ultimately responsible, then, for many different schemes, both during the summer holiday break and at other times. Seasonal activities for the summer would include Gardening, Pet feeding and CHAPS, while cleaning and baby-sitting jobs could be created all year round. The group could go so far as to tender for the cleaning of government and business offices, etc. Also, individuals wishing to market their

CONTRACT ON BEER PRICES FOR ORIENTATION WEEK LEAKED TO WORONI. IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT GREG ELLIS HAD BEEN DRINKING FOR SOME TIME PREVIOUS TO SIGNING.

On condition of the prices set out below the Students Association will pay \$50.00 for cleaning arrangements in the Refectory after the Dance on Saturday 5th March. Prices set out by the Union for the aforesaid Dance are.

\$1.25 per jug (normal size jug minimal head).

35¢ per can of beer.

I will not break any windows

Greg Ellis
Orientation Director

Agreed!!!

Rubrum
Union

own skills, produce or handicraft could use the phone as a contact point for the outside world, share in advertising, etc.

Setting up our own employment group will not be easy. My experience in CHAPS has shown me that there will be difficulties in internal organisation and in dealing with our inexperience in the business world. If we are prepared to learn from our mistakes, as CHAPS was, we can only end up making it a paying proposition. Arguments about the Protestant Work Ethic aside, it may prove to be, as CHAPS did, far more rewarding in a non-financial sense.

—George Lombard

Note: Anyone interested in partaking

in an Employment Group should contact Jon Nicholson, SA President.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED FOR EVATT DROP-IN CENTRE

If you can spare a few hours occasionally to join us and help us run our Drop-in Centre please come to the Counselling Unit, Kingsley Street Cottage — along from Toad Hall — on Tuesday March 22 at 5.15pm. We've been open since January, and building up our numbers of local young people (14 to 18-years old). For more information contact Margaret Evans, telephone 49 2442 and come to the meeting.

Margaret Evans
Acting-Director

AUS STUDENT TRAVEL IS FOR ALL STUDENTS

• Part time

• Full time

• Overseas

• Mature age

• External

If you are enrolled at a recognised tertiary education institution, you are able to take advantage of the low cost flights, accommodation and tours offered by AUS Student Travel — a service of the Australian Union of Students.

There are two programs a year — Summer and Mid-year — plus the same range of comprehensive services as any commercial agent, including domestic travel.

And don't forget your Australian Student Card. It's free to AUS members, and necessary if travelling with AUS.

For further details, check at any AUS Student Travel office, or your SRC/Union/Guild office.

MORE DIRT AND OTHER NEWS

CO-OP NEWS — THE MYTH OF UNDER-ORDERING

Some students and academics are under the misguided impression that the Co-op Bookshop automatically cuts by half the quantity of a textbook that the academic suggests the Co-op should supply.

If in fact this was the case, then Co-op members would probably receive a greater annual rebate than they currently receive. The rebate to members is lowered by the fact that each year hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of textbooks become dead stock. In the majority of cases the text cannot be returned to the publisher.

Each branch manager does to great lengths to establish the optimum quantity of a particular text to supply.

He/she must take into account —

- (a) 'Expected' number of enrolments (based on previous years and the lecturer's estimate).
- (b) The percentage of students who will buy the text. This figure depends on a vast number of imponderables —
 - (i) How crucial the text is to the course;
 - (ii) Whether alternative texts are set;
 - (iii) The number of secondhand copies available;
 - (iv) The price of the book;
 - (v) The price of alternatives, etc.

Obviously, the more information that is available about a text from previous years, the more accurate an estimate can the branch manager make. The number of enrolments in a course is particularly prone to fluctuations, and, in general, is not known accurately until the first week in term, while the Co-op has to place its orders six months' earlier! For example, in one course was 18, the lecturer's estimate was 20, and the actual 1977 enrolment to date is 195.

Branch managers then make the best estimate they can based on the information available to them. In doing so they bear in mind that surplus stock results in higher prices of books and reduced rebate to members.

It must also be remembered that the Co-op bookshop operates within a free enterprise system and consequently does not have a monopoly on textbooks.

Another major headache for the Co-op is 'dropped texts'. With unfortunate regularity, lecturers change their text in the first week of session, leaving the Co-op with shelves of unwanted stock.

In 1976, the Co-op was left with \$360,000 of dropped texts and \$600,000 of surplus stock which hopefully will be used this year. Considering that \$800,000 was paid out to members as rebate, it is obvious how important it is to the Co-op's members that the Co-op is not left with large surplus quantities of textbooks. If, for example, at Sydney Uni, which has 2,000 courses, ten books at \$10 each are not sold, then the Co-op has 2,000 x 10 x \$10 = \$200,000 worth of surplus texts.

Textbooks are quite different to general books, in that if they are not purchased at the beginning of term, then there is a good chance they will never be purchased. Supply of textbooks is a very risky venture.

We hope you will bear these factors in mind if the Co-op has run out of stock of the textbook you require.

Yours co-operatively
Jo Tibbetts
Manager

LECTURERS LET BOOKSHOP DOWN

The Co-op Bookshop is probably one of the most abused institutions on campus. This may be justified in some instances but criticism about the non-availability of textbooks is apparently misplaced according to information supplied to Woroni by the Bookshop.

Because of the quirks of the publishing industry lecturers were asked to supply lists of book requirements by August last year. About 60 per cent — the best of any year — did so. Of the other 40 per cent, some lecturers were ordering as late as early March and expecting their books to be on the shelves within a few weeks. Students naturally enough blame the bookshop.

The Bookshop sent letters to the Heads of Departments re textbook ordering '3 in July and one at the end of August.' Despite this some departments, notably Physics, did not order their books until as late as February. Students having trouble getting textbooks are asked to keep the Woroni editor informed.

WHAT HAPPENED TO DEMOCRATIC EDUCATION? (or Once Upon an Ivory Tower)

Scott Bennett, lecturer of 'Australian Politics' in the Pol. Sci. Department, in his introductory lecture GAVE US THESE GEMS.

'I am not partisan. I would call myself neither reformist nor reactionary. I am not concerned with change but rather how political systems do or should work.' Asked whether he would allow students to determine their own mode of assessment he replied that seven years' experience had convinced him that his way was the only way, but of course students could vote, 'with your feet'. His excuses for not changing from an exam-oriented method of assessment, ranged from not wanting to upset faculty policy, to the suggestion that as there were adequate alternative units in the department, any student not prepared to comply with his requirements could easily change to a unit with a preferable assessment system. Too bad if you're not interested in the politics of Soviet Russia, USA or South-East Asia or any of the other pol. sci. units.
— Celia

POLICE vs THE AIM

Liz and Phil came to town today and gave the local pigs a perfect chance to provide an object lesson in how to control a demonstration without upsetting too many people. Here was the chance of a lifetime for the ACT grunts — to prove that they could, in the presence of Her Maj., control and contain a bunch of whitehead demonstrators without aggravating trouble. Well, they blew it. Mind you, there was no trouble, at the Australian Independence Movement demo tite, but that was pure fucking luck.

At the outset, the pigs had a row of about a dozen cons staring at the A.I.M. people, with the obvious intention of cracking down hard on anything looking remotely like trouble. They could be heard talking among themselves singling out various people as potential trouble-makers. For some reason, I copped this singling out, even though I was just standing there exchanging friendly jokes and remarks with the copper in front of me. [This is not guess-work, I heard the specific singling out of some people, including myself. In true diplomatic,

we-don't-want-to-cause-any-trouble style, they made their remarks quite audible.]

When Liz and Phil appeared, the oinks immediate reaction was to take one gigantic step forward and, quite literally, push the A.I.M. people back about a foot. They then just stood there, staring, eye-ball to eye-ball at the poor bastards in front.

It was about now that the fuzz's true diplomatic tendencies came rushing out. When an A.I.M. supporter was heard to shout that the Queen was the world's biggest dole bludger, a copper [no. 609 his badge said] leaned over and said to his mate 'What the hell are all these people then?' I protested that some were students with no work at present, who could afford the time off Uni, I then received a grunt and a very, very icy stare.

Same cop [609] was heard later to say to his mate 'Throw a bar of soap in the middle of that lot and you wouldn't see them for dust.' I protested [politely naturally] that we were human and we did know what soap was. The reply? 'You wouldn't know what a bloody bar of soap was, mate.' This is quite funny, considering that at the time I had a clean pair of jeans and a clean shirt on. The hair was slightly scruffy and I had a headband, though. Definitely filthy, dirty hippy stuff. Naturally, I was quite upset and replied that 'I haven't been insulting you, mate, so why should you insult me?' His reply was a classic, 'Life's tough, isn't it mate?' then he reverted to his cold, stony, guaranteed-to-aggravate stare. Still, I suppose he's right in a way. After all, life wasn't meant to be easy.

Philip Hare

WHAT'S ON IN THE UNION (MARCH)

- Tuesday 15 — bar night — free
Thursday 17 — Karl Taylor & Huntress
free lunch-time concert
Tuesday 22 — bar night — free
Monday 28 — free films — 'Revenge'
(based on a Chekhov story, 1960, Russian)
'Siegfried' (dir. Fritz Lang, 1926)

I am looking for people to take part in our Talent Quest. Don't get turned off by the name, as it is the only adequately descriptive label that I can think of. Those who enter will be asked to play in the bar on a Friday night and will be judged on their performance as to whether they will appear in the final with the possibility of winning \$\$\$s. Don't be shy, come and ask me more about it.

Besides the Talent Quest the Union is also sponsoring a literary competition with four categories: Poetry, short story, one act plays and songs. Entries will close on Thursday 30 June and all entries must be accompanied by an entry form which will be obtainable from me.

C.D. Scott
Student Services Officer

Will the Student Association executive fulfil its election promise of making more houses held by Real Estate Agents in Canberra available to student groups?? Inside tip available to Woroni is that Peter Searle and Jon Nicholson have had extensive discussions with the President of the Real Estate Institute and that at last week's meeting of the REI the President himself commended the Students' Association on their "initiative". Rumour has it that the

PARTICIPATION AND THE UNION

On Monday 21 March at 6.45 in the board room there will be a meeting of the Union Board; on Wednesday 16 March at 6.45pm in the Board Room, Finance Committee meets.

Though the agendas for these meetings are not yet complete I feel that it is important that all students should at least have some idea of how their Union is run. It is simply not enough to elect representatives once a year and then grant them virtual autonomy in running the union for the next twelve months; that situation only makes for oligarchy and 'empire building'. I would hope that union members will avail themselves of the little-used opportunity of attending board and committee meetings in order to find out more about their union: If you find them dull — you are free to leave; if interested, start hounding your reps with suggestions and new ideas.

There are still vacant committee positions in the union. Those who are familiar with union decision making will realise that most of the new ideas come from the committees and a great deal of the decision making process takes place in the committees. Ask at the union front office about committee vacancies.

Shortly the union will be calling for nominations for two vacant positions on the board itself. Hopefully there will be more than the usual small number of nominations.

As it stands now, all decision making powers of the union rest with the board and its executive. To a small degree that is justifiable in terms of the need for ongoing knowledge of the union in order to run it with at least a semblance of efficiency. But for a student organisation which should pride itself on internal democracy, it is simply not a sufficient justification.

Unfortunately, in order to delegate more powers to the general membership through committees and general meetings, it is necessary to change the union constitution (a difficult task at any time) and to do that students must convince both the board and university council that such changes are desirable and necessary. While committees remain unfilled, and while students continue to show apathy about the union, it will be difficult to convince either the board and, most unfortunately of all, university council, that these changes are needed.

I personally hope students will become more involved with their union. Academic workload permitting, I hope to write a regular column in Woroni informing members about union decisions and proposals.

Robert Arden
Deputy Chairman
University Union

REI accepted in principle a system whereby the SA will "recommend" a group of students who are then deemed to be "responsible" for the purposes of being in a house. Peter Searle denied allegations that only groups of Catholic students who have one car between them, no Hi-Fi systems, study 9 to 5, wear 3-piece suits to lectures and habitually go to sleep at 9.30pm each night would be "recommended" by the S.A.

Woroni Vol 29 No 2, Page 5.

MARCH 21 SHARPEVILLE DAY

In memory of the peaceful demonstration held on March 21 in Sharpeville, South Africa, which ended in the bloody massacre of 60 demonstrators and the wounding of a further 180 — another peaceful demonstration will be held this March 21 outside the South African Embassy (State Circuit) beginning at 4.30pm.

Show your concern for these people who have no rights — no right to vote, no right to own land at all, no choice as to where they may live, no freedom of movement, no right to form recognised trade unions, no choice of jobs — no basic human rights. Incidents such as those in Sharpeville (1960) and Soweto (1976) must be remembered as they are indicative of the depth of feeling these oppressed people have against the white racist and inhumane government.

In Soweto on June 16, 1976, — only last year — another peaceful demonstration — a CHILDREN'S demonstration also ended in the bloody massacre of this time over 160. This massacre continued and since then hundreds more have been killed, wounded or tortured or arrested.

These people were protesting against such basic infringements to their life — in Sharpeville it was against the pass laws — "Every African over the age of 16 must be in possession of a reference book (pass book). Any policeman may at any time call on any African to produce this book. An African who is unable to do so because he has left it at home is guilty of a criminal offence punishable by a fine of up to R.20 or imprisonment of one month." (APARTHEID IN PRACTICE United Nations 1976 New York). In Soweto it was against the enforced use of Afrikaans — language of their oppressors.

Despite all their limitation on freedom of movement, association, assembly and speech, these oppressed people *still* have the courage to defy the persistently inhumane government of South Africa. Have you the courage to support them by attending the demo on this March 21 outside the S.A. Embassy? — Also a vigil will be kept — starting on Sunday 20th at 5pm. If you can make it — do.

If you are really concerned with the lack of human right in South Africa (or elsewhere) join CARE (Campaign Against Racial Exploitation) here on Campus. CARE, ANU supports civil liberties — but we need your support to be effective.

What a NON-COMPULSORY S.A. would be like

Ian Jordan

On campus at the moment there are one or two people protesting at the compulsory nature of fee payments. They call for a non-compulsory students' association: What would such an association be like?

Firstly, we would immediately cease membership of the Australian Union of Students (A.U.S.) as AUS recognises the importance of compulsory unionism for an effective union. There are those who would argue that we would be well rid of A.U.S.; unfortunately, we would also lose certain benefits that derive from membership: there would be no A.U.S. travel for ANU students; no services (such as insurance, health insurance); ANU student would not be part of the national student organisation, we would be isolated from action around the demands to extend and increase T.E.A.S., restore education cutbacks, fight against the introduction of loans and so on. The ANU would become an isolated backwater: quiet but stagnant. Part-time students would lose national contact with the emerging part-time student organisation within A.U.S. Overseas students would also be cut off from national contact. These are only the more important losses that would result from being thrown out of A.U.S.

If fees, at present \$19 full-time and \$15 part-time for the S.A., were not collected by the University on a universal basis, enormous problems would arise with administration. The time of officers of the association, already stretched to the limit by preset commitments, would be diverted to membership drives and fund-raising. The fees would have to rise to compensate for lost membership: doubling? increasing tenfold? who can begin to guess. Literally thousands of students would simply not pay. Effectively, the association would cease to exist.

This would mean an end to the students' association's sponsorship of clubs and societies on campus. Clubs and societies would be open only to those who could pay. The printing, phone, secretarial (Di Riddell!) facilities of the association would simply have disappeared. They would lose their voice with the administration, they would lose the assistance of those with

experience: activity would decline.

The S.A. would no longer be able to give support to campus culture: S.C.U.N.A., N.U.D.E., Creative Arts, and others would either face grim futures or completely disappear. The Radio Station would have to sell that equipment owned by the S.A. The Arts Centre would receive a setback that it could probably not weather.

However, if universal unionism disappears then the students' association would not be the only victim. The union and the Sports Union would similarly cease to exist: an end to a common meeting place, an end to a central food service and bar, and sport only for those who could afford the joining fees.

The face of the campus would alter greatly: creches would close, buildings would be returned to the University, students would suffer the most major setback in their history. Students would lose their voice within the university. The vast majority would suffer for the interests of a few whose "consciences" are "outraged".

But, non-compulsory fees is not an issue of conscience. Why have those who oppose fees not come into the open? Why not come to the association itself? to any of its meetings or even *talk* to its president? Why only approach the university administration (through expensive lawyers)? why use association facilities (to print a leaflet for an affiliated club which holds views opposed to those of the association as a whole) when they refuse to pay for them and seek to prevent others using them?

This is an attack on the association by the back door, clandestine methods. Those who have not the time to participate in its functioning democracy, those who have failed to gain the support of the association for their repugnant ideas of forced child bearing now seek to destroy that organisation they could not persuade. They resort to what can only be described as individual terrorism, a petulant one-man-holy crusade against that body which dares to disagree with them, to silence forever their opponents by behind-the-scenes, snide manoeuvring, seeking to destroy for the many what the few could not have. We call on students to repudiate them and their tactics.

MATURE AGE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

Long live Youth, and all that! Where would the World be without it to shoulder its woes with such enthusiasm and vigour?

But there *is* a segment of University life at ANU which feels the need of assistance to shoulder *its* cares — those of the older age group who return to university following a gap between school learning and the present.

Appropriately or not, we have become known on Campus as Mature Age students — and an encouraging number of these turned up to quaff the wine and nibble the cheese at the Wine and Cheese 'Get Together' held during Orientation Week.

The numerical response was encouraging, but even more so was the decision to hold a **General Meeting on Thursday March 17 at 12.30 pm in the Meetings Room (Office end)** for the purpose of discussing the formation of a Mature Age Students Association.

The encouragement received by the academic staff and officers of the Counselling services was tremendous. Dr Eric Fry, Dean of Students, took time off from a heavy schedule to attend and stated that M.A.S. records show an above average performance in scholastic achievement and that the academic hierarchy held their efforts in very high esteem.

Mrs Margaret Evans, Chief Counselling Officer, Mr Geoff Mortimer Counselling Officer for Part Time Students and M/s Brenda Margis from 'Parents on Campus' all gave brief and informative talks on their specialised areas.

The Part Time Students Association, which caters for approximately 2000 students, cannot adequately cover the needs of *all* MAS. Not all MAS are Part-Timers and it is this small group that such a proposed association could reach.

During the first and second weeks of the First Term information will be distributed in the venue of the General Meeting which Dr Fry will chair. Posters will appear at strategic points on Campus advertising the event and boxes will be placed at the Refectory Door, in the Law School Lobby and in the Economics Department for the names and addresses of those who, although unable to attend the meeting, are sufficiently interested to provide us with postal information.

MATURE AGE STUDENTS! Don't beef about your problems — get together and form an official body and a platform from which to express your gripes. The University appreciates you, wants you and wants to help but unless we present ourselves properly — what can *they* do?

POLITICS SOCIETY

meets every THURSDAY at 1 P.M. in the Political Science Departmental Centre. or contact Phil Dickie in the Woroni Office.

NEXT S.A MEETING

Wed. 23rd March

Place and date to be advised;

PEACOCK FACES THE STUDENTS

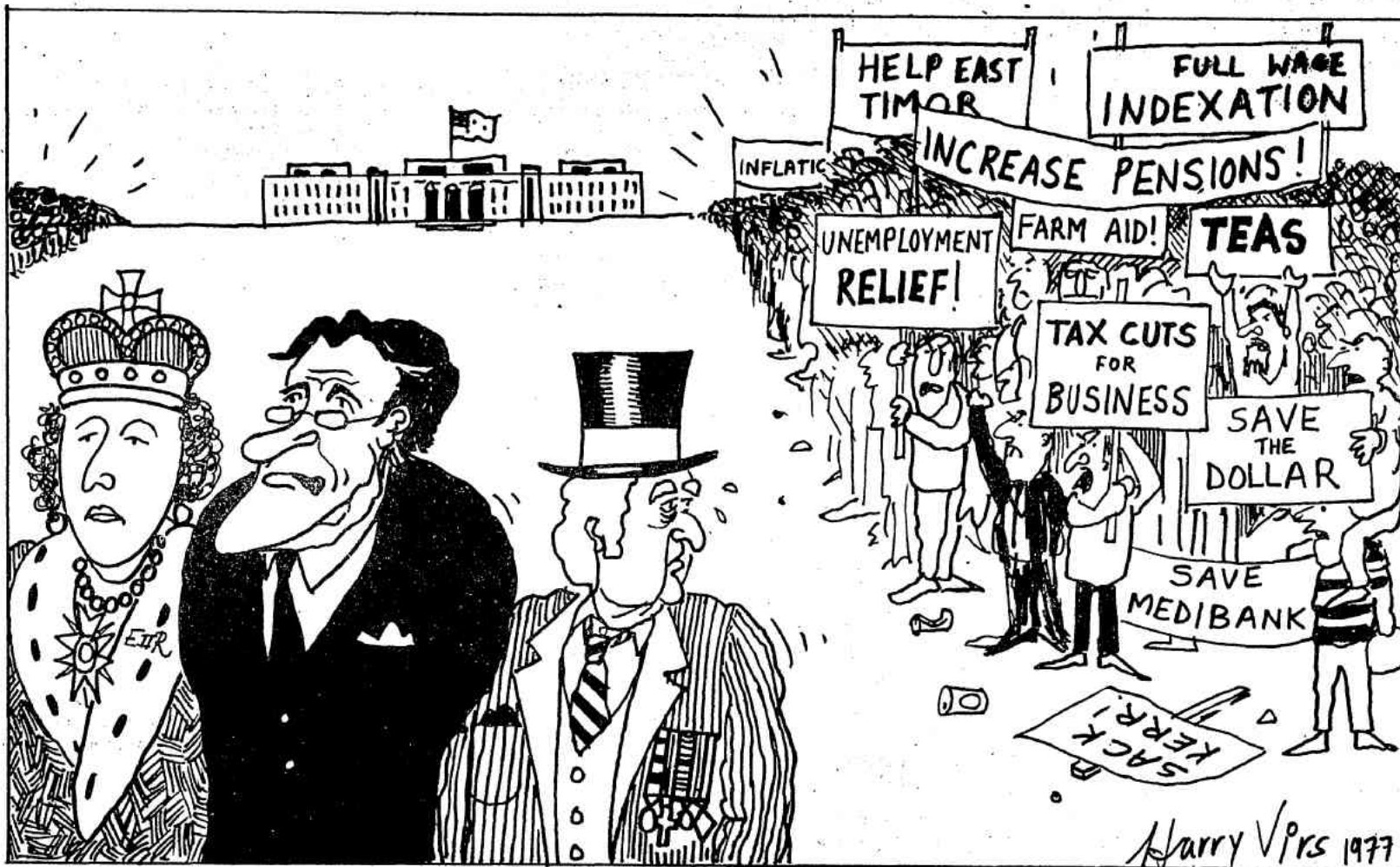
MEETINGS ROOM
UNION BUILDING

MARCH 17TH AT 7.00 PM

BE THERE TO HEAR AND QUESTION AUSTRALIA'S FOREIGN MINISTER.



POLITICS



"..... FURTHERMORE, GOVERNMENT POLICY WILL NOT BE INFLUENCED BY RABBLE-ROUSING MINORITIES."

BILL TURKLE

TENEZ LE DROIT by Bill Turkle

My first note in this regular column of conservative canons is a cautionary one to those arriving at ANU for the first time who are unfortunate enough to bear the irredeemable defect of right-wing political views. Be assured, we at ANU, in solidarity with the working class, Fretelin, the PLO and, that most obscure of minority groups, women, are working towards a social revolution to smash Fraser's fascist oligarchy and we will not tolerate the expression of views which contradict the aims of the proletarian struggle.

Oh, crumbs! you think, will I ever be able to wear my Fletcher Jones tweeds again? Never fear, the solution is easy - LIBERATE YOURSELF! Cast off those bourgeois adornments, don bib-and-brace overalls and be free. (Carpentry is not yet on the syllabus, but overalls are handy anyway if you're a philosophy student.) The point is, fellow fascists, that you must simply deny your own view of the world and substitute for it the correct ideological line. From then on, life's a breeze.

How to win friends and influence people:

1. Turn up for plenty of demo's, especially against Kerr. If possible, get yourself arrested. This is a surefire method of achieving real status, and, if you ever decide to run for SA President, it's an advantage to be able to list an impressive number of arrests to your credit. Don't forget to strike for higher TEAS either. You'll earn everlasting adoration for abusing fellow students as 'scabs', even if you, personally, spend every spare minute at Thredbo at Daddy's expense.

2. Sink more piss, smoke more dope! These habits, although extremely ex-

pensive, cannot in any way be classed as bourgeois. To the contrary, such stimulants are essential to a real understanding of the nature of class struggle.

3. Never open a door for anyone, male or female. Manners are passé.

4. If you're set on passing your exams, a currently unfashionable aim, reject academic debate entirely. That's long been considered purposeless in most departments. Instead, remember that you are first and foremost a humanitarian. If an Arts student, your essays should consistently demonstrate an understanding of the nature of tyranny and a sympathy for the oppressed. Oppressors are to be condescended out of hand and, ideally, you should have a string of damnatory epithets at your fingertips for use in this regard. At all costs, be careful to limit your understanding of any given situation to the goodies, who can often be identified by their healthy espousal of violence as an avenue to liberation. Even if, like me, you're a gentle person, you will quickly find that your pacifist nature is not offended by adopting such a position.

Voilà! The formula for success is yours. Go to it, future dictators of the proletariat everywhere.

Radio 2XX, since its inception as a 'public access' radio station, has proved second to none in its political bias, both in form and content. One of the more striking examples of adolescent frustration to which we have been treated was a recent edition of 'Love, Sex and Politics'. The author of the program attempted to demonstrate Malcolm Fraser's unsuitability for public office through reference to the Prime Minister's

supposedly emotionally deprived childhood and consequent sexual repression.

This Dorothy Dix of the airwaves must be commended for his diligence in searching out journalistic asides pertaining to Fraser's personality. Perhaps he has inadvertently given us an entirely new human-angle approach to the study of Australian politics. Does, for instance, Bob Hawke's consumption of copious amount of the amber fluid go back to an inadequate potty training? What secret vice accounts for Whitlam's healthy red glow? Did he become a penetrating influence in politics primarily because he is 'good in bed'? It follows, of course, that in such a situation, the only logical course for Australians is to petition the Queen to commission Alvin Purple as the next Governor-

General.

Events at the January AUS Conference publicly confirm the lunacy of the left. As always, the majority of students have no real way of knowing what actually happened, or anything about the way in which decisions have been taken to allocate the funds to which we contribute.

Were the reports given by Tony Abbott and Greg Sheridan in *The National Times* and *The Bulletin* substantially correct, or wildly exaggerated? Owing to the decision of the conference not to admit 'the monopoly press', we shall probably never know.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN

EAT MORE WOOL

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT - DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SECURITY

ISSUED AT CANBERRA (Publication Embargo Ends - 0900/4/4/77)

The Minister has announced details of a new scheme to reduce the level of those unemployed in the community - particularly the large numbers of school leavers about to enter the labour market.

Since the number of jobs refuses to increase, it has been determined that these jobs must therefore be made to go further. This will be achieved by the early retirement of older workers, thus creating the vacancies necessary to accommodate the school leavers.

A program to phase out older workers (over 40 years) by the end of the year will thus be put into effect immediately. This program will be known as 'R.A.P.E.' (Retirement of Aged Personnel Early). All currently employed who are R.A.P.E.D. will be given the opportunity of seeking other jobs, provided they can demonstrate skills which may be short in the overall economy.

This phase of the program will be known as S.C.R.E.W. (Survey of Capabilities of Retired Early Workers). All employed persons who have been R.A.P.E.D. and S.C.R.E.W.E.D. may apply for review before final action is implemented.

This final phase will be known as S.T.U.F.F.E.D. (Study of Termination of Use For Further Education and Development).

Program policy dictates that workers may be R.A.P.E.D. once, S.C.R.E.W.E.D. twice, but can get S.T.U.F.F.E.D. as many times as the Government sees fit.

AND NOW, FROM THE PEOPLE WHO

URANIUM AND THE NUCLEAR LOBBY

In their haste to speed the export of uranium from Australia, Nuclear lobbyists in this country have been resorting to misrepresentation and vilification in an attempt to discredit those who oppose their objectives.

The basic arguments against the mining and export of uranium will be familiar to most people, whether they agree with them or not.

Now, in a clumsy attempt to exploit ideological prejudice, the nuclear lobbyists are using another weapon — the smear. This is hardly new, of course: in Australia over the past 30 years, anyone who has espoused causes contrary to the interests of the establishment has been given the tag of 'communist' or 'socialist' at some stage or another.

Ten years ago, the opponents of the Vietnam War were tagged as Communist dupes: in 1977, we are hearing the same description being given to environmentalists.

As an example, take the article written by Mr Harold Melouney, a spokesman for the Australian Uranium Producers Forum, in the *Melbourne Herald* last November. First of all, Mr Melouney expressed his outrage at the thought of Australian environmentalists, 'a minority group' (not like the Uranium Forum) trying to impose 'their will and their morality' on other countries.

Then he referred to the 'insidious' forces trying to stop the development of the uranium industry — the militant unionists whom he called 'communist or socialist left' or 'so-called environmentalists', who want to change the social order.

In January we had the spectacle of one of Australia's best known scientists, Sir Phillip Baxter, and two Federal members of parliament adding their voices to this kind of rubbish.

They said, at a Young Liberals conference, according to the *Melbourne Age*, that the anti-uranium lobby in Australia was 'inspired from overseas, probably by the communists'.

Senator Harold Young, Chairman of the Government's Natural Resources Committee, went further and said the anti-uranium campaign was probably financed from overseas: 'Be prepared for a terrific increase in their propaganda over the next few months', he warned, 'But don't be deceived by what they say'.

Then Billy Wentworth got to his feet and said he had no doubt the Communist Party (which one he didn't say) was behind the anti-uranium campaign.

These opinions fly in the face of a strong body of scientific analysis, apart from insulting the many thousands of ordinary people in Australia who have reached the sincere belief that Australia should not be involved in the mining of uranium.

Ultimately, too, the question must be asked — Where do they get their evidence for such sweeping statements? Are Mr Wentworth and Senator Young privy to information that none of us know, because, if not — then they can justly be accused of using their privileged positions mischievously.

Ironically enough, at almost the same time that they were kicking the communist can, a statement signed by 200 scientists calling for a ban on the mining and export of uranium was on its way to Malcolm Fraser! Are we to

BROUGHT YOU HIROSHIMA



believe that their opinions are 'inspired from overseas', too, and not based on accurate scientific information?

The Uranium Producers Forum has also tried to discredit anti-nuclear power scientists in other ways.

In a recent discussion paper, the Forum noted that some months before their resignation from the (American) General Electric Atomic Research Company, 'The GE3 (three engineers) and their wives became members of a new religious cult' — in other words, they had become *RELIGIOUS FREAKS*: How else could their irrational behaviour be explained?

Misrepresentation of the facts:

No less serious than these tactics, at least in their effect on public opinion, is the very partisan reading which nuclear scientists and other uranium lobbyists have given to official documents prepared as part of the nuclear debate in Australia.

The best known of these is the report of the Ranger Inquiry the Chairman of which was Mr Justice Fox.

In an article in the *Melbourne Age*, another well known nuclear scientist, Sir Ernest Titterton, claimed that 'in simple terms' the Inquiry found that the mining and milling of uranium in Australia, properly controlled 'as it is in Australia' (Sir Ernest's opinion), would present hazards no worse than those experienced in other mining operations.

He also reported the Inquiry as finding that the current operations of nuclear power stations, again properly controlled, were safe by any reasonable standards.

What Mr Justice Fox and his two associates found was:

(i) The hazards of mining and milling uranium, *if those activities are properly regulated and controlled*, are not such as to justify a decision not to develop Australian uranium mines;

(ii) The hazards involved in the ordinary operations of nuclear reactors, *if those operations are properly regulated and controlled*, are not as to justify a decision not to mine and sell Australian uranium. These recommendations do not stand alone.

They have to be taken in conjunction with earlier sections of the report which found that radiation dangers are present at all stages of the nuclear cycle: that security at reactors is far from perfect: that it would be quite possible for a small and well armed group to take over a reactor: that there is no way high level nuclear waste can be isolated from the environment and remain safe for a long period of time: and that the present international nuclear safeguards are in fact full of holes.

The Ranger Report also discussed the implications of the widespread use of plutonium, the most dangerous element in the nuclear cycle.

The Commissioners found that:

- (i) A terrorist group could use reactor grade plutonium to make a bomb, with good prospects of giving a yield of several hundred tonnes of TNT;
- (ii) The mere possession of nuclear materials, coupled with the threat or pretence of bomb construction, may suffice to produce the effect desired by the terrorists;
- (iii) Construction of a nuclear explosive device is not of such complexity as to be beyond the apparent resources of existing terrorist organisations;
- (iv) Construction of a device to disperse plutonium oxide into the air would be comparatively simple;
- (v) Undetected thefts of small quantities of plutonium would probably be feasible;
- (vi) An attempt by a small and well armed group to take over a nuclear installation would have a good chance of success.

Yet Sir Phillip Baxter — who could surely claim no expertise in anti-terrorist precautions — could feel confident enough to accuse the Fox Commissioners of having 'swallowed some nonsense' about the terrorist threat. **Accidents and the Nuclear Cycle** The proponents of nuclear power are able to dismiss nuclear accidents as 'routine failures and malfunctions', as if the partial meltdown of a reactor with all its potential for catastrophe was no more of a problem than a blown light globe.

The Ranger Inquiry, on the other hand, found that 'there is a very small but finite probability of a serious accident with release of highly dangerous radioactive material.'

It found that the 'numerous incidents that have occurred in nuclear power stations, together with serious accidents known to have occurred in military installations, give no grounds for complacency' — at least for most

of us, if not those who are able to gaze down from the olympian heights of so called scientific detachment.

In a book published recently (*Nuclear Power*, Penguin), a Canadian critic of the nuclear program, Walter Patterson, who visited Australia recently, gives details of some accidents that have happened.

Among them:

- The 'mishap' at the British Windscale Number One plutonium production reactor in 1957, caused when a Physicist threw a switch too soon.
- The 'mishap' at the stationary low power reactor No.1 at Idaho, 1961.
- The partial meltdown of the Enrico Fermi Plant, south of Detroit in 1963.
- The fire at the Brown's Ferry nuclear station, Alabama, 1974, caused by a candle being held by an electrician.
- The crash of a US B52 carrying four hydrogen bombs at Palomares in Spain, 1966.

The consequences of these 'mishaps' were varied:

At Windscale Reactor, eleven tonnes of uranium were set on fire and an unknown quantity of radioactive isotopes blown from the stack over the surrounding Westmoreland and Cumberland countryside.

Because cattle were grazing in the pastures where the isotopes had fallen, two million litres of milk taken from an area of 500 square kilometres was poured into rivers and the sea.

Both reactors at Windscale were filled with concrete and entombed, but Windscale still functions as a nuclear installation, and — twenty years later — is still causing problems with radioactive leakage.

At the Idaho reactor, which had been shut down to allow work on instrumentation, three young servicemen — John Byrnes, Richard McKinley and Richard Legg — were assigned the task of reassembling control rod drives.

Patterson describes what happened: 'No one knows exactly what happened on January 3, 1961. Later reconstruction of the fatal four seconds indicated that the refit had actually been completed. Then, for reasons that will forever remain unknown — thoughtlessness, horseplay perhaps — the central rod, number 9, was pulled out of the core.

The official report by AEC investigators suggests that the control rod was stuck, and that Legg and Byrnes tried to heave it up manually. When it came loose it rose not merely ten centimetres, but nearly fifty.

The result was catastrophic. The core almost instantly went supercritical, the fuel fried itself and the resulting steam explosion blasted a virtually solid slug of water at the roof of the reactor.

The reactor vessel rose three metres, right through the pile cap. Legg and McKinley were killed instantly; McKinley's body was impaled in the ceiling structure on an ejected control rod plug. Byrnes was cut down by a withering flash of radiation. Automatic alarm systems brought emergency squads but even before they reached the reactor their radiation dose metres were reading off scale, more than 500 roentgens per hour, a lethal level of radiation (the maximum permissible radiation dose per year recommended by the International Commission for radiological protection is five 'Roentgen equivalent man' units).

The level inside the reactor was even higher, more than 800 roentgens per hour. Nevertheless, two rescuers rushed inside the wreckage and dragged out Byrnes, who died in an ambulance on the way to Idaho Falls hospital . . .

Many other 'mishaps' like this have been recorded.

The nuclear lobbyists raise the objection that there are far more accidents in the coal mining industry than in the nuclear industry, but the *potential* for disaster stemming from a reactor accident or from the leakage or diversion of nuclear material is incomparably greater than anything that could ever happen in any other energy industry.

One full meltdown would result in the death of many thousands of people and there have been enough partial meltdowns for this to be a probability rather than a possibility if the growth of the nuclear industry continues.

Furthermore, the number of people who would be killed in a nuclear war can only be guessed at.

Nuclear power is a box of horrors, some of which we have already experienced and against which the economic arguments put forward by the nuclear lobbyists seem petty and irrelevant.

As the Ranger Report shows, measured against national income, the supposed benefits of uranium boil down to very little: the figure of \$1000 million a year has been banded about, but uranium will not be earning \$1000 million (\$550 million of it profits) until 1989 and the maximum that can be expected is \$1200 million by 1999.

This will represent a contribution to the net national income of 0.3 per cent.

As for unemployment, the Fox Report found that the Ranger Project would employ a maximum of 1000 people in the initial construction stage and 400 people after that.

This leaves the question of where future energy resources will come from. First of all, we do not solve one problem by creating a worse one. Secondly the Ranger Report notes that future energy consumption is likely to be lower than at present, and predicts that the quantity of recoverable reserves will increase with further exploration and improvements in technology.

This is not to say that there is not an energy problem (although it is not as serious as the oil companies and the uranium miners would have us believe), but that there are alternatives to nuclear power which remain untapped.

There is one more point to be made. As in other industries the uranium miners are predicting a growing demand for their product.

But social values are changing rapidly and by the end of the 20th century we may be in full retreat from the targets of increasing growth and consumer demand, which, Lemming-like, we have accepted for the past 100 years.

Hesitantly, in many countries, we are already backing off.



EAST TIMOR BETRAYED BUT NOT BEATEN

In May this year it is proposed that the Indonesian president, General Suharto will visit Australia. The purpose of the visit is, no doubt, to confirm and strengthen Australian ties with Indonesia — ties which have become somewhat strained because of certain sections of the Australian public who have totally disapproved of Indonesia's aggressive military invasion of East Timor on December 7, 1975. The majority of East Timorese people have given their support to Fretelin, the party which is leading the struggle for national independence. However, phrases such as 'the will of the majority' are easily ignored by Australian politicians and businesspeople when trade relations with Indonesia might be in jeopardy.

Indonesia would see the gaining of independence by any country in the archipelago as a threat to its own position, regardless of what form of government that independent nation might choose to adopt. An independent and politically stable West Irian or East Timor would serve to highlight the corruption and instability of the Suharto military regime.

Australia has aided Indonesia in the murder of tens of thousands of Timorese by such actions as not voting against Indonesia at the United Nations, by cutting off radio links between Australia and East Timor, by refusing to grant Australian visas to Fretelin delegates, by freezing Fretelin funds held in the Commonwealth Bank, by choosing to ignore the murder of the five Australian journalists in East Timor and by continuing its financial aid to this military regime.

A high ranking public servant, Mr Jim Dunn, former Australian consul in East Timor, has recently returned from a visit to Portugal where he spoke with East Timorese refugees who were able to give detailed accounts of murders committed by Indonesian soldiers — murders perpetrated with the use of Australian military aid.

Recently the Australian government transferred its immigration branch in Portugal to Spain, thus making it extremely difficult for these Timorese refugees to apply for entry into Australia.

At a recent public meeting on Timor, chaired by Ken Fry and addressed by MP Gordon Bryant, it was suggested that a war crimes commission be established to investigate reports of atrocities in East Timor.

Indonesia's war in East Timor is not going well. A recent demonstration by war widows in Djakarta is symptomatic of the strain being put on Indonesia by the refusal of East Timorese to surrender. Fifteen months after the invasion the East Timorese forces are making territorial gains. Eighty per cent of the country is under the control of the government of the Democratic Republic of East Timor. With a little help from their friends it could be one hundred per cent.

It is obvious, however, that the Australian government will do nothing to aid the East Timorese unless sufficient pressure is put on them by the Australian people. The Campaign for an Independent East Timor needs your support. For information about the Campaign and activities contact Michael Griffith phone 451746.

KANGAROO CURRENCY

Below are extracts from an editorial in the prestigious Far Eastern Economic Review (December 31, 1976), dealing with the fluctuations in Australia's exchange rate following devaluation of the dollar last year.

'The Review's 1976 award for foreign exchange irresponsibility goes without a doubt to Australia . . . the latest one per cent revaluation of the Australian dollar silently perpetrated by the Reserve Bank confirmed the strictures expressed in these columns that the Australian authorities positively foster exchange rate instability.'

'The main argument against freely floating rates, which are subject to speculative pressures, has been that they create instability. The Australians have now succeeded in proving that an administered rate can be the most unstable of all when it is subject to the whims of politicians or officials who either cannot make up their minds or, as many suspect, have fostered uncertainty about the exchange rate for devious monetary purposes.'

'It is not just New Zealand which has had to make its own erratic shifts to compensate for Canberra's manoeuvrings, that is suffering.'

'It is not just other countries with substantial trade or tourism relations with Australia.'

'It is all countries which consider that world economic stability is threatened by official exchange rate manipulation, sudden and unexplained rate changes, and straightforward dishonesty about the way that exchange rates are determined.'

'Is Australia proud that its dollar is called a kangaroo currency?'

forwarded by Senator W. Brown.

One Small Demonstration



Last Wednesday night that well beloved benefactor of students, Malcolm Fraser, came to Melville Hall to open the 'Genesis' exhibition of the National Gallery. The reception party had gathered beforehand — about 150 students, 69 police of various types, a lone Eureka Flag and a 'DUMP FRASER' banner, the students making up in enthusiasm what they undoubtedly lacked in numbers. *Woroni* decided to attempt to cover the demonstration from two angles inside and out. I fronted up to 'Security Barrier No. 1' — about 5 police — and after a lengthy and thorough scrutiny of hastily fabricated Press identification and the camera lens I was allowed through. Once inside I mingled with formally dressed guests, drank some of the wine, inspected the collection and weathered a few "Heh isn't he one of THEM outside" "How did he get in?" stares. The opening speakers, Fraser included, were predictable and uninteresting. I amused myself by taking photographs and identifying cabinet and shadow cabinet ministers amongst the crowd. Speeches — and — Who is talking to who? Richard McKinnon is trying to be noticed and is talking to everyone. Still he's got some amusing anecdotes about which of the

Photograph: Phil Dickie



security men can break what if I step out of line. Richard finally gets a word to the P.M. and I stand by for a pre-arranged photograph.

However, V.C. Anthony Low interrupts me and introduces me to the man we all love to hate PM Malcolm Fraser himself. The conversation which followed included references to the demonstrators outside, continual harassment (assessment to those who don't already know) examinations and what sounded suspiciously like standard quotes from the Melbourne speech. "It's easier to get a hearing on the waterfront than in some universities" — Well there is enough truth in that to hurt.

Photograph: Cindy Aberley

Fraser was 'disappointed' by the number of demonstrating students. So was I. Despite the turnout I maintained that a majority of students would probably range from slightly left to amazingly left in their political allegiances. Richard McKinnon maintained that liberal students are the coming wave of the future in universities. Raspberry. I notice notice that Press Secretary, Dave Barnett, is terrible concerned about what the PM may say in unrehearsed conversations with media and wonder whether Press Secretaries are to facilitate or obstruct channel communication.

On the outside it is noisier and infinitely less inhibited. Staley was observed giving the two ups to students as he walked in. Whitlam is catcalled and not cheered. As Fraser walked out there were cries of "Out Fraser, out". Rendered, with feeling, 100 voices Michael Yabesly dissenting. No; demonstrations don't have the effect they used to.

Phil Dickie



Photograph: Phil Dickie

COMEDY WRITERS

A. B. C. Television wants 30 minute comedy scripts from writers with original ideas.

We receive hundreds of scripts each year. Most are derivative, un inventive, unfunny and bear little or no relationship to Australian life and attitudes in the 1970's.

Perhaps you can do better. We would like the chance to agree with you.

All submissions promptly read and acceptable material bought at current Writers Guild rates.

Inquiries and/or scripts to:

Script Editor, TV Entertainment,
Australian Broadcasting Commission,
Box 487, G.P.O., Sydney. 2001

STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

el presidente

So what, you may ask, has the Students' Association done for me this week?

O'Week we felt was money well spent (well I enjoyed it) with high spots like Mike McClellan, Jean Paul Belle (the mime). If you missed it we've got a few lined up in March.

On March 30 Margaret Roadknight's here for a lunchtime concert in the Bridge, and the week before Matt Taylor (remember Chain) should be here.

About the same time we're beginning a series of Saturday nights in the Union where, for a buck fifty, you'll get the bar, a dance, and folk musician and films pretty well all night. We are trying to open up the whole Union and provide a complete night's entertainment - all under one roof, all for one price.

On a more serious note, Andrew Peacock will be on campus on Thursday 17 to argue it out with students. The Young Lib's are crowing about it but the good word is that there'll be plenty of opposition about.

Bob Downing got the food store open and its now operating next to the Union shop downstairs in the Union. It'll take a few days till all the stock is in and she's running smoothly, but its running - so stuff the critics and come down and have a look.

General meetings are going again - which are meetings which all students can (and should) attend - deciding how we ought to spend our money. All positions are now open, so if you want to be on the education, clubs & societies or finance committee get your nomination into me.

That's about it, if you're wondering about your money - and we're still upstairs - in the Union (near the bar) for those who need us.

THE FIRST ANUSA MEETING - AN EYEWITNESS REPORT

There is something of a record attendance at the SA meeting - is this a good start to the year? this is a reasonably thorough account of the meeting but not terribly detailed so I suggest that if you are interested you consult the minutes before blundering in at the next SA Meeting. I notice that Chairman and President Jon Nicholson is doing his best to sound like a radio talk back compere. It doesn't go down at all well the ayeing and naying is depressingly unenthusiastic. A disadvantage of outdoor meetings with only one microphone is that you cant hear the interjectors.

Apparently, according to Brisbane, Canberra CAE has seceded from AUS News to the CCAE I'll guarantee. There is a lot of discussion about a proposed AUS culture bureaucracy but all this more about AUS can be read elsewhere in this issue.

Conscientious objection for the SA was a contentious issue with speakers evenly divided between the 'Principles of free association' mob, the 'for the common good' mob. One speaker suggests what could amount to radioactive student cards. Don Munroe, God bless him, reminds students that WORONI is provided through compulsory fees and would probably not exist if payment was purely voluntary.

Bob Downings motion required Orientation Handbook editors to work to submitted budgets. The immediately past Handbook editors admitted a degree of financial slackness but pointed out that editors operate in a vacuum of guidelines and controls. Julia Imogen moved a motion which is more intelligent and easier on editors than the original motion and it is passed.

Jane Bullen moved a suspension of standing orders to allow a consideration of the time and venue of future SA Meetings. A motion setting a permanent venue and time was effectively foreshadowed. There is more to this issue than there appears to be. On the one hand, the present SA Executive can maintain the political initiative if it has the power to call meetings wherever and whenever in the day it pleases. This is because the present SA Executive

OVERSEAS STUDENTS SERVICE

FIRST GENERAL MEETING

To discuss the year's activities.

WEDNESDAY MARCH 16 7.30 PM

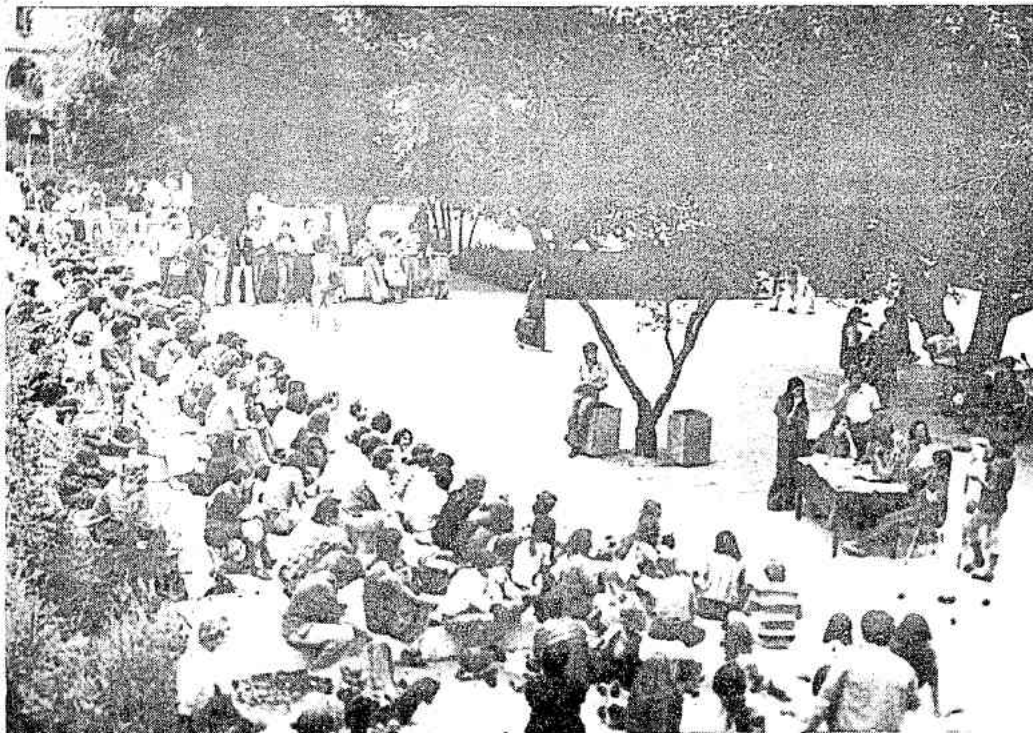
in the UNION MEETINGS ROOM

Nominations are hereby called for the positions of:

Education Committee Chairperson
Clubs & Societies Chairperson
Building & Grounds Committee representative
Library Committee representative
Finance Committee member
Bookshop Committee representative
Board of the School of General Studies representative

Nominations close: Wednesday
23 March
Jon Nicholson
President
ANU Student Association

Photograph: Robert Brown



Photograph: Cindy Aberley

depends for support on students who last year were not in the habit of attending meetings. On the other hand meetings held in a given time and place usually enhance the ability of small groups to dominate the meeting. The motion is lost.

Follows fiery speeches about Hishamudin Rais. A thoroughly pedantic debate with those well known SA personalities Robert K.L Taylor and Alastair J.M. Walton objecting and amending wherever remotely possible. Or attempting to - the SA disallowed all attempts. Richard Webbs original motion on Hishamudin Rais was passed after much unnecessary ado.

See the AUS articles in this issue for what the AUS Constituent Ratification Motions are all on about. Voting on these issues will take place at the next SA Meeting. The AUS Secretary Peter Searle presented what in the eyes of some was an inadequate report More much ado about nothing.

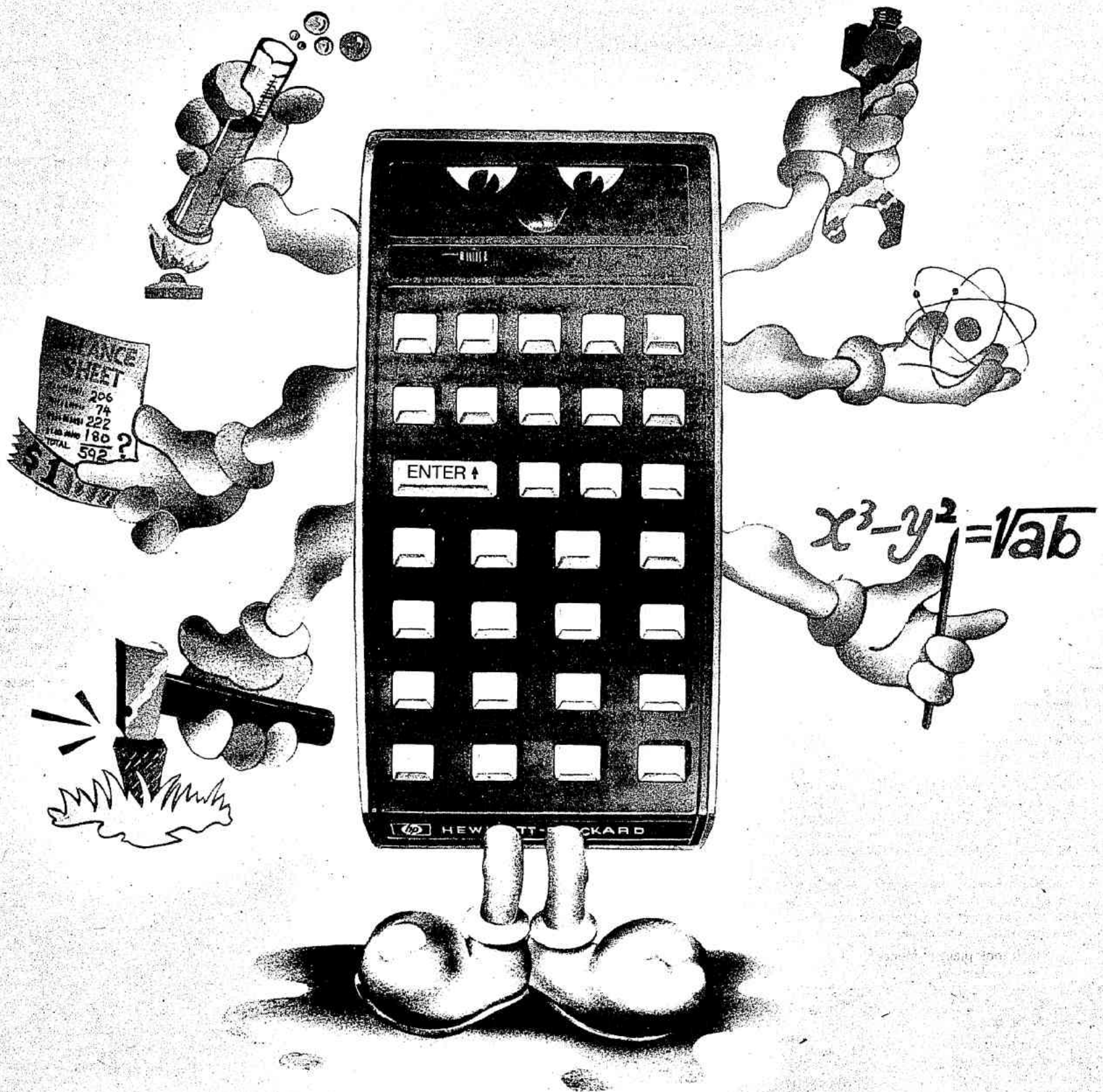
Michael Yabesly tries to tell the meeting that blacks in South Africa are the most emancipated free blacks in Africa. The meeting is not receptive and Tim Nicholson puts the meeting straight and tells it that suppression elsewhere is irrelevant to a motion concerning South Africa. Richard Webbs motion granting \$60 for CARE'S Sharpeville remembrance, demonstration was duly passed.

Following which the motion concerning venue and time of meetings was brought up again confirming its importance to a minority that finds it easy to manipulate fixed meetings. As far as I am concerned the more students that get involved the more democratic and relevant the SA will be to them. If the students wont come to the meeting then, Viola! the meeting must go to the students. The motion was lost again.

Phil Dickie



HEWLETT-PACKARD. A CALCULATOR FOR ALL REASONS. ARM YOURSELF!



Whatever your faculty, Hewlett-Packard pocket calculators will simplify your problem-solving.

Check out the HP range — from the basic HP21 through to the powerful HP67 and HP97.

All HP models come complete with rechargeable batteries, Recharger, padded carry case and 12 month guarantee.

HP calculators have the functions to help fathom your faculties.

See a demonstration of HP's powerful RPN logic calculators at your authorised HP campus outlet.

HEWLETT  PACKARD

Sales and service from 172 offices in 65 countries.

FORTUNE 30785 90702

A.U.S. - or what you love to hate

REPORT BY AUS SECRETARY Peter Searle

My visit to Melbourne early this year to witness proceedings at the 1977 AUS Annual Council merely reinforced the doubts I already had about the value of the AUS as the representative voice of Australian students. Perhaps 'representative' is a misnomer - I was one of a number of recently elected local Student Association or SRC executive members, including 'AUS Secretaries', who had no voting rights at the Annual Council. We were accorded 'Official Observer' status because we had requested the opportunity to witness proceedings at the supreme decision-making organ of the AUS. The reason for this, for those of you who, like myself, are a little surprised at the scant regard paid to democracy by AUS and previous ANUSA administrations, is that the general elections at which the local AUS Secretary is elected by the student population on campus have nothing to do with the ANU delegation to AUS. The AUS delegation was elected at an ANUSA general meeting on the last Wednesday night of term last year - a time at which I'm sure the 868 people who voted Searle for AUS Secretary 2 weeks' earlier had better things to do with their time than visit the Union.

Thus, the 30 or so who voted for Richard Webb on the aforesaid evening were able to have their man elected head of the ANU delegation to AUS Annual Council, even though Richard was beaten by 570 votes for the position of AUS Secretary.

This is not to put Richard down in any personal sense, because in my opinion he did as good a job at AUS as anyone could have under the circumstances. However, what I am doing is attacking the electoral system which enables a delegation to be sent to AUS which is not representative of student views on the campus.

It will come as no surprise therefore that I consider one of my first priorities to be an amendment to the ANUSA Constitution so as to enable the ANU delegation to AUS Annual Council to be democratically elected. The present electoral system allows an unrep-

resentative group of people to purport to represent the interests of ANU students, and thereby helps perpetuate AUS policy and an AUS executive which is equally unrepresentative of Australian students at large.

Unfortunately, the democratic election of ANU delegates will have little effect on the fact that AUS is not representative of Australian student opinion. The 'Far Left' will still control AUS because AUS does not demand democratically elected delegates, and wherever delegates are elected at SRC or SA meetings the 'Far Left' wins hands down. Thus, reform of AUS (if reform is at all possible) is likely to be an extremely slow process and will only be achieved by moderate groups gaining control of each individual campus and enforcing democratic elections.

Even the democratic election of delegates which is itself a long term reform, would not necessarily result in the election of an AUS executive which was representative of student opinion. At an election for the AUS executive, only the previous AUS administration has the actual physical and financial means of contacting and lobbying for votes among the delegates, because the delegates are dispersed right throughout Australia.

At least, in the short and medium term, therefore, we have a situation whereby AUS is effectively unreformable. This simply means that Australian students are stuck with the image of being 'left wing radical ratbags', because that is the type of image AUS is best at conveying to the Australian public.

TO STRIKE OR NOT TO STRIKE THAT IS THE QUESTION!

At the next general meeting of the Student's Association, two motions passed at AUS Council will have to be voted on for constituent ratification.

The first concerns a demand that the TEAS means test be abolished and the second, and far more important in my opinion, concerns a proposed national students' strike which would probably be held on April 28.

The two motions are set out below so as to promote informed discussion during the 2 weeks before the

and not a privilege,' and 'A living wage for all.' These campaigns will aim to educate and inform both students and the public, and will be designed to bring pressure to bear on the government.

Council recommended a boycott of classes together with nation-wide demonstrations as the climax of the campaign. This proposal will be submitted to a student vote on every campus.

Also being put to a vote are Council's policy resolutions calling for the payment of living allowances to all students without any means test or special eligibility conditions.

Special budget allocations were made for activities in relation to part-time and mature-age students. Trainee teachers, too, will be an important concern of the Education Department of AUS. The Education Department has had a massive increase in funding for its activities and campaigns in line with the priorities set by Council.

This year will also see a stepping up of research into education and student matters. Student housing and the problems of part-timers, will be specifically focussed upon.

Expenditure on 'culture' will increase

March 24 SA meeting when they will be debated and voted upon.

When considering your views on these important issues, I would like you to bear in mind the following observations. Firstly, whatever the vote at the SA meeting, and regardless of my own personal views, particularly in relation to the strike motion, I consider myself totally bound by a vote of the SA on these issues. Should the SA meeting decide to endorse the strike proposal I could only assume that those ANU students who did not vote felt that their views would be adequately represented by those present. Thus, for my own part, I will be actively involved in lobbying, organising, preparing and disseminating information in preparation for a national students' strike if the majority of students at next week's SA meeting are in favour.

The final observation I would like to make is that I fail to see what a 'national boycott' of lectures can achieve that could not be more effectively achieved through public meetings, demonstrations, press statements, letters to parliamentarians and editors, submissions to government inquiries and committees, lobbying government members and similar means which draw the public attention to our needs.

It seems to me that our demands will never be met while we fail to get a reasonable amount of public sympathy and acceptance of our reasonable needs. It is very easy for the government and therefore the public, to say 'Stuff the students!' when we boycott lectures, engage in violent demonstrations, smash windows and lock Fraser in toilets, [which incidentally is quite funny even though it didn't score us any points with the public]. I feel we could assist our cause far more by focussing our efforts directly on the educational issues rather than by allowing our conservative opponents in the press to create a public image of all students as being 'radical, left-wing ratbags'.

The motions are as follows:
MOTION C171: 'Recognising that education is a right and not a privilege and that it is the responsibility of the Government to pay, and not the individual, AUS DEMANDS THAT THE MEANS TEST BE ABOLISHED as it discriminates against many students in need, is based on the

principle of assistance and does not in reality make education accessible to working class people accordingly.

Thus AUS believes that the following changes to the TEAS scheme must be made immediately to alleviate the critical material poverty of students:

(i) Abolition of all restrictions on eligibility for TEAS, so that all students receive the same level of TEAS income.

(ii) Income to dependent sexual partner be equivalent to the Henderson poverty line, and income to dependent child be equivalent to half the Henderson poverty line, both to be indexed in the same manner as other social service benefits.'

MOTION C178: '(1) That, in view of the success of the September 30 strike and mobilisations, and the continuing attacks by the Fraser Government on education spending, A ONE-DAY NATIONAL BOYCOTT AND TOTAL MOBILISATION of Australian post-secondary students be held during the months April-June (the date to be finally set by the AUS Executive in consultation with the NEAC).

(2) That nation-wide demonstrations be held to coincide with the national boycott and mobilisation.

(3) That AUS recognises that the object of the boycott and mobilisation is the government rather than the staff (academic and non-academic) of educational institutions, and therefore instructs the organisers of the activities of the boycott and mobilisation to do their utmost to enlist the support of all staff and students.

(4) That the boycott and total mobilisation and demonstrations have as their demands:

(i) a living wage for all students;
(ii) no cutbacks in education spending, a real increase in Government education funding;

(iii) no tuition fees;
(iv) the immediate increase of TEAS payments to 120% of the Henderson poverty line;

(v) no restrictions on eligibility for TEAS; TEAS made available to all students (including Aborigines);
(vi) No government-controlled loans scheme;

(vii) no restructuring of education to serve the interests of the employers.

Peter Searle
AUS Secretary

AUS IN 1977

The Australian Union of Students' 41st Annual Council took place at Monash University between January 13 and 22 this year.

Annual Council's purpose is threefold: to enable a review of the past years activities; to make new policy; and to budget for and plan the next year's work.

Council deals with so much business that it becomes necessary to sit for upwards of 15 hours a day. Being present to debate and vote on issues in the actual Council Chamber is not the sole responsibility of delegates. Many also spend time caucusing as interest groups to decide on attitudes and tactics regarding specific motions.

Several groups, notably blacks and women, use the opportunity to have extensive discussions about matters not so directly concerned with the Council.

The 1977 Council decided that absolute priority should be given to education issues.

Campaigns related to the cutbacks in education spending and to tertiary allowances will centre on the slogans 'Education is a right

by 110% in 1977 to \$27,300. The ANU delegation had rather grave doubts about the way in which this money is spent; i.e. in supporting a bureaucracy rather than subsidising culture on small and isolated campuses.

The work being done by AUS officers, both in Melbourne and other capitals, on the many national issues like unemployment and uranium was examined and some new policy was introduced in this area.

During the Womens Session, there was considerable debate on issues concerning all men's complicity in rape and support for working women. Problems of health care and the rights of individual choice in matters concerning sexuality also received much attention.

A result of these debates and resolutions will be the production of a consciousness-raising kit and the continuation of past campaigns on sexism and sexuality.

AUS' relationship with black groups has been changed. In 1977 we will continue funding the Black Resource Centre, and start giving financial support to the relatively new National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Students Union.

Some drama was added to Council

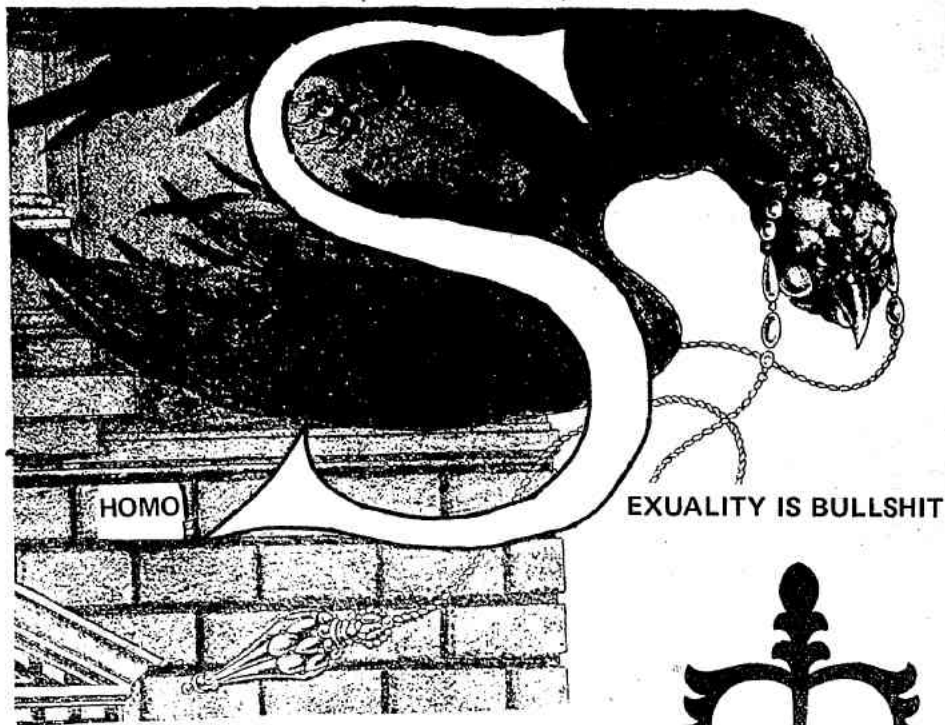
by the events concerning Hishamuddin Rais (see *National U* number 1) which highlighted the importance of work done by the Overseas Students Service.

The press gave great publicity to the claims by so-called 'moderate' students of violence and intimidation having occurred at the 1977 Council. An inordinate amount of publicity given by the *Australian* to completely unsubstantiated and indeed untrue claims, and the subsequent censoring of a letter from AUS President-elect Peter O'Connor (see *National U*, number 1, p.15), shows the extent to which AUS is under attack from some sections of the community.

To sum up, my impression of the 1977 Council's activities was one of a useful appraisal of where students and education stand in relation to our society and the world at the moment. I believe that the Union, in following the policies made at Council, can be a viable agent contributing to social change.

AUS is your Union: Be in it!
(PS. Please feel free to make enquiries of me, or other delegates about the many detailed resolutions of Council which are too numerous to even consider writing about.)

Richard Webb



Homosexuality is bullshit. Not the homosexuality that describes an act of two women or men fucking but the Homosexuality as a way of Being, of identity and definitions — 'I am a homosexual.' Everyone who goes around saying/thinking 'I am a homosexual' is strutting their oppression and reinforcing their own death. Used this way, homosexuality is one of the most vicious tools of self-oppression and not only does not lead to revolution, but blocks revolution. All those who really desire change will try to destroy homosexuality.

Many gay people think there's something radical in their gayness. And there is. But most of them mistake the sources of this radicalness and then go on to build their analysis/program/philosophy on this false foundation. Such analysis/program/philosophy then proceeds to enjoy a career of interest, excitement, talk, fantasy, criticism — but not change. No change, but lots of fun, especially since the pet analysis is based on a particularly exciting fantasy.

And what is this false base? It's sex. Sex, sex, sex, sex. Our range of perception has been limited by our oppression; the parameters of oppression become our beliefs. This is the belief: that what distinguishes a gay person is their choice for sex-partner of someone with the same genitals. This is the MYTH OF THE HOMOSEXUAL. The aware gay person thinks, 'There's something revolutionary about my gayness'. And then they reason, 'since what distinguishes my gayness is my homosexuality, the revolutionary thing in being gay must be in my sex activity.' From here it's an easy step to uphold homosexuality as radical and liberating.

We see this reasoning and analysis paraded through the pages of gay writings. *Homosexual: Oppression and Liberation*. 'Cocksucking as an Act of Revolution.' In fact, the Myth of the Homosexual forms the basic a-priori groundwork for almost all 'radical' gay thought (as contrasted with *feminist* thought). Just look at FAG RAG, for example. Every issue filled with photos, poems, articles on sex, on making it, on beautiful bodies, on homosexuality. Homosexuality history, homosexual freedom, homosexual fantasy. All assumed all taken for granted, believed in implicitly. Everyone's been sucked into the Myth.

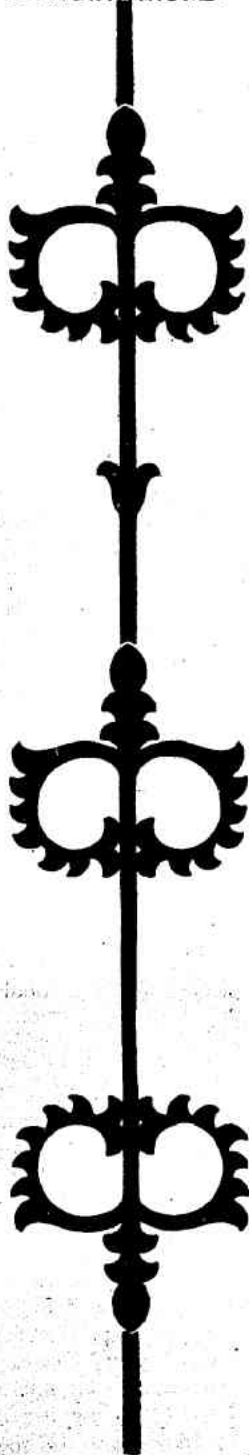
Charles Shively has perhaps the *clearest argument based on the Myth of Homosexuality*. He says, 'Choosing homosexuality is . . . a revolutionary stance . . . our sexuality makes us revolutionary.' ('Indiscriminate Promiscuity as an Act of Revolution', *Fag Rag/Gay Sunshine*, summer '74). Thus, our sex life contains the seeds of change, and Shively goes on to plant them in beds of fucking, sucking, rubbing and coming. You want to create a new society? Go out and do it do it do it and you will see all, learn all. Worship at the altar, and god will give you grace.

The intellectual *rationalisation* for homosexual radicalism is found in Freud, via Marcuse. To Freud, every important human impulse has a sexual basis. Then Marcuse comes along saying that all oppression originates in social manipulation of the sex impulse. But, Marcuse argues, homosexuality can't be exploited in this way, can't be put to work for the social elite because it exists only for its own sake, to have fun. Therefore, 'Against a society which employs sexuality as a means for a useful end, the perversions uphold sexuality as an end in itself; they thus place themselves outside the domination of the performance principle and challenge its very foundation' (*Eros and Civilization*, p.50). Homosexuality provides a way out, is a source of revolution.



However, Marcuse makes one mistake. He thinks, homosexuality is socially condemned because it can't be exploited. But actually it's the other way around; homosexuality has not been exploited, because it's been condemned.

All cultures have their taboos. Homosexuality along with a great many other things, has been ostracised from our particular society. Once out in the dark, it's free to



express itself as best it can. In other societies, homosexuality certainly is/was exploited. Look at the ancient Spartans, for example, Marcuse might as well argue that women are condemned as inferior to men because they aren't as intellectual/rational.

What I'm talking about here are the beliefs, rules, taboos, and rituals of a particular culture at a particular time. Such beliefs are mythic, that is, made up out of thin air, to give structure and identity to the people in that culture. And further, such myths are usually absurd; this person can't think or act as responsibly as I can, because she has a vagina and I have a penis: I have fits when the moon is full and therefore I must be an evil sorcerer and a threat to the community; and so on.

All societies have such mythic systems. Each system makes up a certain 'reality', a world-view basic to the consciousness of that society. Freedom means breaking through the myth system.

In our culture, one of the most profound myths is sex role — if you have a certain genital, you must DO certain things and you must NOT DO certain other things. What we call 'gayness' is breaking up sex-role myths in massive way; in fact, it is breaking them up enough to see through to the other side. In this situation, sexuality is only one of many aspects of gayness, and in fact is not a very important one. Sex is emphasised because our repressed sexist culture is obsessed with sex and because a sex act is easy to define and illegalise — how do you illegalise love, for example?

This is where the Myth of the Homosexual comes in. The category of 'homosexual' is unique to our culture. In many others the concept doesn't even exist. The word itself is only about a hundred years old, and is an attempt to deny the vision of gayness by restricting it as much as possible. '*Homosexuality*, if an interpretation of 'gayness', the most constricted, controllable interpretation possible. And yet the two words are usually considered synonymous!

What's essential in gayness is a breaking away from mythic sex-role patterns and identity. What characterises gayness is not homosexuality but non-mythic self-originated ways of relating to males and females. For men, not competing against other men, but feeling warm, nurturing; not raping women. For women, not relying on men for purpose and identity. And so on.

The foremost function of a cultural mythology is to provide a sense of identity, of 'me-ness' to the people. This is always unjust for the individual, since it precludes and suppresses their own identity. Gayness reverses this situation; it originates in a sense of being undefined as a sensual, sex-rolised being. Within this inner calmness emerges a sensual attraction for those of the same sex. This attraction comes from the life-energy and may find expression in sex, love, and/or other forms. It's *not* sexual in essence. These inner impulses force an identity conflict which may lead to victory for the individual. If so, we find the birth of a cultural rebellion, the road to freedom.

As more people see the vision of gayness, the threat to society increases. Society, then, must try to defuse this threat. The conflict rages in the realm of consciousness, of awareness. The repressive order can only exist in a narrow consciousness. If society can just maintain the idea of Homosexuality, it will get what it wants. For then, people will be deluded into thinking they're 'homosexuals', since no other conceptual framework will be available. Then, these 'homosexuals' will only be able to demand justice based on homosexuality. Faced with such demands, our liberal society will be forced to accept homosexual expression and gay people will sink back into the sleep that society has gained by controlling heterosexuality.

The myths of a culture are always changing, and there is no reason to expect ours to remain the same. *Any particular thing, a label, an act, a sign, can be made part of the myth system*. It is always that system itself which is oppressive, and never any of its constituent myths. The system will survive any freedom movement based on concrete acts or discrimination.

We must find ways to break out of the myth system, rather than clamor for liberation of a specific thing. As long as we focus on homosexuality our continued oppression is guaranteed. And those who push for liberation through homosexuality are helping oppression the most. The day will come when having homosexual desires will no longer mean anything for liberation or revolution. Society is taking care of that right now. Look at *Campaign*. Look at the changes in laws. When they are old, homosexual activists will be able to say, 'Well, we did it, but nothing seems to have changed.' This is because (liberation through) homosexuality is bullshit.

— reprinted from *Fag Rag* (USA)

SPORT



Women's Champion Junior Lightweight Four of NSW
Bow: Lesley Paton 2: Stephanie Quinn
3: Cheryl Stace Stroke: Liz Gibb
Coxwain: Yvonne Vidivic Coach: Joe Wolfe
ANU

SWINGING ON SULLY'S

The ANU Boat Club is the premier rowing club in the ACT. At the 1976 ACT Championships it won the senior eight, senior four, second grade (junior) eight, lightweight four senior sculls and premierships, i.e. all the major events except the second grade fours and the women's four. The club is aiming to again do well in all classes of boats and standards of events in 1977, particularly at the championships. In 1976 the club was able to field strong crews from 1st grade to 4th grade (novice) standard, managing, for instance, to consistently do well in the novice, tub pairs, the event for people in their first season. Several of the oarsmen and women who have managed to master tub rowing have gone on to be members of the club's senior crews.

The club's outstanding individual oarsman is Peter Nevett. Peter has done all his sculling in the club colours and is currently Australian junior and lightweight senior sculling champion as well as intervarsity champion. He is the fastest sculler in the ACT and was ANU's sportsman of the year in 1976. Peter's success has promoted the standard of both sculling and rowing within the ANU.

The club competes in other events apart from the local ACT Rowing Association regattas and intervarsity, the most noteworthy race being the Disher Cup, Australia's equivalent to the Oxford-Cambridge boat race, between RMC Duntroon and ANU. This race over 3 miles starts off Spinnaker Island, passes near Hospital Point and then through the bridges and finishes at East Basin Pavillion. This year the race will be held on Sunday, March 27, and it will again be a spectacular race to view from Hospital Point or from the Parliamentary Triangle.

Women's Rowing

In the last 6 months women's rowing has taken off at the ANU. The club has boated a NSW State Championship finalist crew in the eights, fours and lightweight fours races, although the bulk of women rowers have been rowing less than a full season. ANU's first non-sculling championship was

won on the 12 February at Drummoyne when a lightweight four won the women's junior lightweight fours championship of NSW.

This win augurs well for the intervarsity competition in May when a women's four, paid and sculler will represent the club. The men's events at intervarsity are the eights, pairs, sculls and lightweight (under 11½ stone) fours races. The club is interested in recruiting men and women to row as well as to coach. Interested people can come down to the boatshed after 5.30 pm on weekdays or contact Hugh Watson re men's rowing, 47 7647 (after 7pm) or Judith Anson re women's rowing extension 4751. The Club's boatshed is on Sullivan's Creek, toward the Lake from the Ward Road Bridge. There is an access road to the shed from off Garran Road, to the left of the John Curtin School Animal Pen.

ANU RUGBY UNION CLUB

The Rugby Union Club has started activities for the year.

Members of the Club are participating in a summer touch football competition and Club training has begun at North Oval on Tuesday evenings at 6pm. During the season training will normally be on Tuesday and Thursdays at North Oval.

Coaches for this year include two members of the University: Steve Mugford, of the Department of Sociology, SGS, will coach the 2nd grade team and Andy Turner, a research student in the Department of Geography, SGS, will coach the 3rd graders.

Last year's Colts' coach, Pat Garnett is to become coach of the 1st grade team and Club coach.

The Club invites new players and supporters — those interested please contact Des Bingley, Accounts (ext. 3775) or David Walsh, Student Administration (ext. 3452).

AUSTRALIAN RULES FOOTBALL

The ANU Australian Rules Football Club, which fields four teams, has the depth to cater for ANY player, regardless of his ability, aspirations, intelligence, race or sex. It caters for the player who wants to

make it to the very top in football, like Jesa; for the player who likes to have a kick of a Sat'dee 'arvo; for the player who likes to have a few beers with his mates of a Tuesday, Thursday or Saturday night; for the player who doesn't really like to play but who likes a beer anyway; and for the player who, though a very rare species indeed, actually LIKES to train on the odd Tuesday or Thursday night. Regardless of YOUR ability or level of interest, there is a place for you in the Uni 'Footy Club, so if you feel like having a kick, or a few beers, the place to be of a Tuesday or Thursday evening is ANU South Oval.

The ANU Australian Rules Football Club extends a warm welcome to all students, regardless of their level of interest in the game. Since the value of extra-curricular activities is difficult to underestimate, the Club can and will perform an important function in YOUR tertiary education by providing activities at both a social and sporting level.

ANU SOCCER CLUB

ANU Soccer Club made a successful start to the new season on Saturday (February 26) when they defeated the First Division side, Canberra Norths, 2-1 in a pre-season friendly match. Dave Drakakis-Smith scored the ANU's first goal early in the second half; pressure from the same player and Alastair Crombie caused a North's defender to put the ball in his own net for the winner. Outstanding for the University were goalkeeper Kevin Fewster and defenders Chris Thomkin and Brian Edwards.

ANU Soccer Club continued its successful start to the season by defeating Young Boys 4-2 in another pre-season friendly match at Giralang oval.

Despite the very wet conditions, ANU played some constructive attacking football, particularly in the second half when Rob Willink lent his weight up front. Wilcox, Harrison, Bee and an own goal completed the ANU scoreline. Best players for the university were Bee, Wilcox and Willink.

Preceding this game there was an inter-club trial match which was well attended despite the conditions. Several good performances were produced by both old and new players. Anyone interested in playing soccer is reminded that training takes place each Tuesday and Thursday at 5.30 on North Oval.

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY SPORTS UNION 1977 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Sports Union will be held in the Physics Lecture Theatre, SGS, ANU on THURSDAY 24 MARCH 1977 commencing at 7.15 pm.

An agenda for the meeting will be available from the Sports Union Office, prior to the Meeting.

Philip G. Brodsky
ADMINISTRATOR

MIDDLE DISTANCE RUNNING

Have a look at the current standard of *middle-distance* running in the ACT (even taking into account that the Woden 'track' is like a carpet). *There has been no improvement since records were set 10 years ago by Gavin Jones and Roger Brown.* The 800 and 1500 and 400 have *not* improved, and the *Steeple-chase time seems out of reach* — ALL distances mentioned had records set in ACT by runners who accepted *Scientific* advice.

The times set in 1965-66 were 49.2/1:52.2/3:58.3/15:12/9:13 — two sprinters in the SAME GROUP ran 100m. 10.5 and 200m 21.1 and a Triple Jumper exceeded 50 feet. The point to be made is that the trend to distance and *fun-runs* has made runners *slower not faster*. Ideas on training as expressed in *Runners World* April 1975 (50,000 circulation) and in *Distance Running* publication, result from years of involvement in Exercise Physiology; these principles do not conflict with Percy Cerutti's *Middle distance running* or Lydiard's *Run to the Top* — for further knowledge a must is *Tulloh on Running* by Bruce Tulloh (former European 5K champion and sub 4 minute man and a biology lecturer).

Remember, the forest is for fitness, the track is for training.

However, if you have NO ambition, JUST HAVE FUN and enjoy yourself.

Jack Pennington

CARMANGETIT

SELLING SERENITY: CONSUMER RESISTANCE TO TM

In 1958, when Maharishi Mahesh Yogi felt moved to take Transcendental Meditation to the world, only a handful of Indian devotees had been taught the technique. Today there are a million-and-a-half meditators in the West alone, with World Plan Centres in every major city of the non-communist world. Yet even that growth seems unacceptably sedate.

"If TM is so great, why don't more people do it?" The old prejudices have a lot to do with it. Despite a wide-ranging and growing awareness of the existence and popularity of the technique, traditional misconceptions persist. Consequently, TM propaganda frequently spends more time and/or space on what Transcendental Meditation is NOT than on what it IS. It's NOT a religion, a mysticism, a yogic trance, self-hypnosis, concentration or contemplation; it DOESN'T require any special philosophy, faith, diet, posture, clothing, lifestyle, morality, religion or dedication. It certainly doesn't involve taking up residence in a Himalayan cave until the second coming. ANYONE can meditate and EVERYONE can benefit. The process is so simple, natural, and automatic that the individual's state of mind and body is essentially irrelevant. You simply sit normally in a comfortable chair for about 20 minutes twice a day, and allow the mind to settle through finer and finer levels of thought until it reaches the initial impulse of that thought; and transcends it. Hence Transcendental Meditation. Simple really.

In the process both mind and body gain a measurable level of rest far deeper than sleep, allowing the nervous system to throw off stress and fatigue. The result is NOT a permanent state of soporific stupor, but rather increasing clarity of thought and perception, a sense of inner quiet that grows as more stress is dissolved, a freshness and vitality that increases as tension and fatigue are eliminated. For some (lucky bastards) an overnight transformation; for others, a gradual improvement that starts almost imperceptibly. But always progressing towards greater enjoyment of life.

"So what, I don't need it, I can cope." Anti-pollution programs are only 'needed' once the air is unbreathable, the water undrinkable, the food inedible, and the ecosystem on the point of armed rebellion. Until then, city managers are 'coping' quite nicely, thank you. A certain level of pollution is perfectly normal; no one can remember a time when it wasn't always there. So it is with stress in the human nervous system. TM will raise the quality of every life, and the higher the level you begin from, the sooner you will achieve complete freedom from stress. This clean, clear, optimally efficient state allows the individual to function with his full mental and physical potential, and is known in the jargon as cosmic consciousness or enlightenment.

"But don't people have problems, bad side effects and all that?" Bad side effects, no, except when using someone else's mantra and second-hand instructions. (That is one of the responsible reasons for the secrecy so often condemned as childish and unnecessary; and for the organisational strictness of the teaching discipline). Problems, yes, as with any new skill, like speaking or eating. Meditation difficulties, including doubts about the experiences stress-release often brings, are rectified by having any teacher at any centre check the correctness of meditation. Like everything else, TM-ish, it is easy, effortless, and effective.

"If this technique is so simple, why does it cost so much to learn?"
Course fees, incidentally, are currently \$90 adult, \$45 tertiary student, \$25 high school student, children under 12 two weeks' allowance, and married couples plus any progeny under 15, \$150. Let's see what you get for your money, folks:
2 hours personal instruction
8 hours group instruction

say 8 hours (minimum) checking for 1st year

Plus unlimited checking from any centre anywhere in the world for life (Brian Pollock, eat your heart out) plus the pleasant environment of the centre (set in scenic Campbell) to learn in, and its facilities for lifetime use if desired.

plus not-too-terribly-boring-really newsletters four times a year.
plus Residence Courses, SCI, TTC Phase I and II, Festivals, Advanced Meetings, Pot Luck Dinners . . .

So much for the sales pitch . . . Compare that with the cost of learning how to write BA after your name. What price enlightenment?

There is no rip-off. The International Meditation Society is a registered non-profit educational organisation. It has been thoroughly investigated by a plethora of suspicious government and private instrumentalities throughout the world. It is a high cost/low output industry, with fixed overheads and limited economies of scale, and it pays its workers starvation wages — teachers at present receive the take-home pay of \$30-\$40 a week.

'But what about this Maharishi character, what does he get out of it?'

Fulfillment, basically. As a Hindu monk, he owns only the most basic possessions, and all the facilities afforded him by the movement are to expedite his work. He is on the job 22 hours a day, 7 days a week, teaching teachers, structuring programs, and almost singlehandedly running a world-wide organisation through

because the picture is so perfect and so all-encompassing. It would seem more realistic were faults and limitations introduced to satisfy this philosophy of fated and frequent fallibility; unfortunately, the TM message is supposed to transcend such expedient dishonesty.

"I still don't believe it works". In the days when evidence of the efficacy of TM was limited to subjective validation, allegations of fraud were frequent and difficult to refute. Since a measure of objective support for even the most incredible claims has been provided by a body of scientific and sociological research, the pendulum has swung in the direction of obsession with graphs and statistics most ordinary mortals view with reflex distrust. Almost all new meditators start primarily because they have a friend who does it; although other forms of publicity are doubtless important in opening their minds to the possibility. Consciousness-raising, don't you know. And people are starting, thousands every week, and some 85% of them continue to meditate regularly. Ask them about their experiences, the benefits they can feel and see.

A healthy skepticism is an asset when learning the technique. Those totally convinced of its infallibility will often try to meditate, thereby introducing an element of effort that hinders the process. A suspension of belief, on the other hand, ensures the innocence to sit back and watch it happen. And there is less likelihood of utter dis-

Britain's 80,000 meditators have kept a low profile since the Beatles episode. Interest in TM has spread by word of mouth.



a skeletal hierarchy. As an AWU member his penalty rates would bankrupt the IMF. As an AMA professional, fee-for-service would make Maren's Super Bounty look like church money. A graduate in physics, he is incidentally a highly respected theoretical and practical scientist, and is frequently consulted by the gurus of Western Technology.

It is important to remember that TM is NOT Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, nor the Science of Creative Intelligence, nor IMS, SIMS, SRM, WPEC, FACTI, MERU, MIU — the technique exists independently of the organisation, its personalities and their beliefs. TM is just something you do; twenty minutes twice a day and all that.

'Don't a lot of weirdos do TM?'

Yes, but they also eat, sleep, drive and type. TM can no more be judged by the eccentricities of its odder adherents, than can the validity of Marxism be assessed by the excesses of certain Student Politicians. Some meditators do become so wrapped in the joy of it that spreading the word takes on all the objectionable characteristics of proselytising evangelism — and it must be said that the universality of its application and the holistic nature of its benefits more than encourage this. Many people find the TM spiel ridiculous simply

illusion at not turning into SuperKool inside the first ten seconds. What was it Bertrand Russell said about converts . . .?

Despite the inertia of a conservative medical and administrative establishment, the experts are coming on side. They recognise that TM is more than just a relaxation technique for drug addicts and neurotics. There is an increasing awareness of its possibilities for raising the standard of every life, not just those of miscreants our society would otherwise happily lock away. Some of the world's most eminent doctors, physiologists, sociologists, administrators and sportsmen testify to its importance across a range of human activities. Three (at last count) US state legislatures have passed resolutions endorsing its use. Many educational institutions utilise it, many private companies support it, many groups and societies sponsor it.

TM has come a long way since its 60s associations with the Californian hippy fringe; today it is so respectable as to be attacked by the British Communist Party as 'yet another bourgeois delusion.'

Perhaps it is all a delusion. But what a beautiful way to have your senses come to you.

GREG CARMAN

EXPERIMENTAL THEATRE — MODERN DANCE AT ANU

Experimental Theatre. At ANU this year an experimental theatre ensemble has developed and workshops are underway. One direction we are taking at present is influenced by Grotowski's ideas about 'theatres of poverty': the removal of all theatrical 'tricks' (such as make up, costumes, etc.) with the purpose of allowing the actor-artist to reveal herself to the audience. This is completely different to conventional theatre which aims at 'building up' some character which the actor is to play.

The methods that the ETE are using are based on techniques used by such groups as the Open Theatre (Chaiken) and the Living Theatre (Beck). Generally, these are improvisations that help actor-artists to become aware of the way they used space, sounds and movement.

Ideally, if there was enough interest shown, I would like to see/assist the formation of similar ensembles on the CCAE and Tech. College campuses as well. However, economic and time (and academic — almost forgot!!) restraints make this impossible. For these reasons the ensemble at the ANU is open to any college or tech. students. If there is enough support from, say, the CCAE, a group could be developed off the ANU campus.

So any interested persons who want to check ETE out, roll up to the Meetings Room, ANU (just above the refectory) at 7.15pm on Wednesdays. We work for about three hours.

Modern Dance. In conjunction with AUS, the CCAE, the ANU and Simon Dawkins are bringing to Canberra the Kinetic Energy Dance Company in the week beginning April 18. This company is one of Australia's leading modern dance companies. And even more exciting for Aussie culture freaks the company actively finds its roots in Australian traditions, from Aboriginal Dreamtimes to comments in dance on Nov. 11, 1975.

At the ANU and CCAE Kinetic Energy will be giving environmental dance exhibitions and lecture-demonstrations. At the ANU there will be dance workshops on the weekend of 23/24. Price is a total of \$12 and this will cover nine hours of modern dance technique and creative dance. For further info, watch this newspaper or contact Don Munro c/- SA, ANU.

Some advance publicity: performances costing \$2.50 (students) on Thursday April 21, 22 and 23. Matinee for persons kept in schools: 10-11.30 am on Thursday 21.

URANIUM MORATORIUM

RALLY on Friday, April 1.
Meet at Parliament House at 4.30pm and then march to arrive at Petrie Plaza by 5.30pm. At Petrie Plaza there will be a combined rally/concert with speakers and bands.

URANIUM MINING — OUR RIGHT TO DECIDE

APRIL FOOLS DAY JOKE

As from April 1, all International Meditation Society course fees will rise world wide by 30% (that's almost a third, folks). Get in now and beat devaluation (or something)!!!!

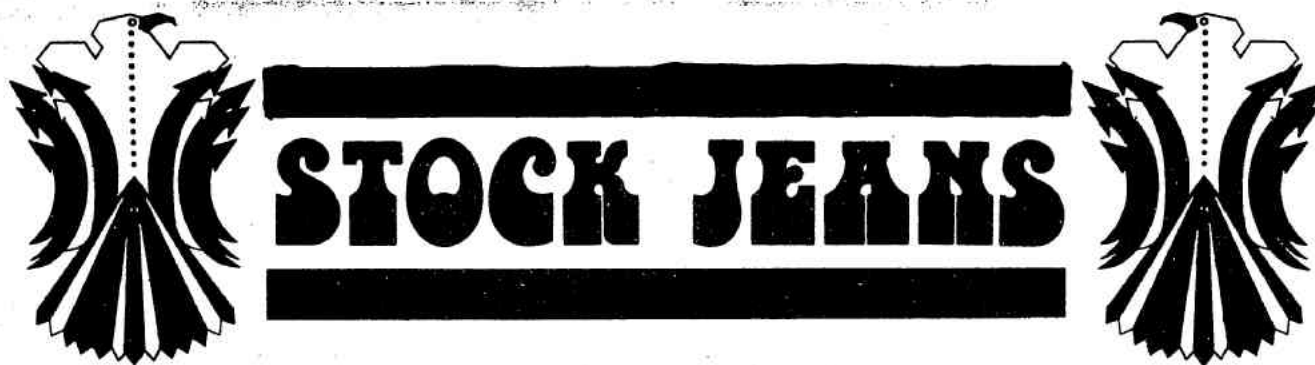
Introductory talks on TM will be held each month on campus. Watch your notice board! (It's cheaper than TV).

We hope to hold regular Advanced Meetings for campus meditators, if a suitable venue can be found. Any suggestions (preferably printable)?

10%

OFF!

**JUST BRING YOUR STUDENT CARD TO
ANY**



STORE

GAREMA PLACE

WODEN (Terminal)

QUEANBEYAN

MANUKA

SHORT STORY

ON THE DEATH OF JAMES McAULEY

Somewhere on the west coast of Tasmania, I am leaning against a lighthouse. It's pretty late at night, and the powerful beam of light dominates both land and sea. The beam scans the noisy scape, the noise coming from gusts of seawind and waves crashing on rocks.

An intuition fills me as I lean against the tower. Somewhere on the sea, there is a yacht from last year's Sydney-to-Hobart which got lost in Bass Strait, and has been trying to get to Constitution Bay ever since. I am sure it's out there in the dark.

With a rush, I race up into the tower, knock over the squat-faced keeper at the top of the stairs, and take control of the light apparatus. For five minutes, I flick switches and traverse the ocean with arcs of light.

I do not find the yacht, but instead spot two men walking across the water. To tell the truth, they are not so much walking as skipping, hand in hand, over the waves. I train the light on them. They're both wearing old overalls, and have longish hair. They look up and wave.

Soon they are beside me in the top of the tower, and tell me their names are Dan and Fred. I ask them whether they have seen a yacht; Fred says they saw one some miles back, but it was going in the opposite direction. Hearing this, I decide to give up the search, and inform Dan and Fred that they can stay the night in the lighthouse.

Dan asks me why a squat-faced man is lying slumped at the bottom of the stairs. I tell him that I had thrown the old derro out.

We began to examine the room around us. I find a pile of magazines in one corner. Looking through the stack I discover they are Quadrants, all of them.

'Hey', I cry out to Dan and Fred. 'Come over here. There must be every Quadrant ever made in this load.'

The two water-walkers both utter a shriek, and move back a bit.

I sit down and start to read. After flipping through half a dozen editions, I come across an article by one James McAuley. It is headed 'Culture and Counter-Culture: A Personal View'. It soon becomes apparent that this McAuley is a science-fiction writer. In this story, he has a character who indulges in Blake and anarchism when he is young, and then indulges in Catholicism when he is old. The SF part comes in when McAuley places this character in an Australia marked by Christianity, a common morality, a liberty-ensuring Constitution, a scientific tradition, and an organised economy. I put the magazine down and think, wow, what an imagination!

In another corner of the room, Dan and Fred are cackling to themselves over something else. I go over and ask them what they're reading. Fred insists it's only Marvel Comics, but it looks to me more like old issues of News Weekly.

I tell them about McAuley's article. They express interest when I add that it has got cartoons. I go back and fetch the Quadrant for Dan. Dan reads it for a while, then says:

'This cartoon of McAuley looks just like the old man at the bottom of the stairs.'

We all gallop down the stairs to find the editor of Quadrant lying unconscious on the floor. He looks as though he has broken his arm. I wonder why he is a lighthouse keeper on the west coast of Tasmania?

Standing over the body of an old writer is a morbid experience. We decide to go upstairs again.

Outside the winds are whipping up the sea and a storm seems to be on the make.

At the top of the stairs I suggest we tell each other stories. Dan looks sharply at me, and in his expression I see he is still upset from observing the injured human being. Fred, however, responds to my suggestion, and asks me what sort of story I would like.

'A story about Tasmania would be good', I reply. 'I haven't been here long.'

Fred laughs, and says yes, but Tasmania is a big topic. He's been a factory worker, a miner, and a public servant. There's quite a few stories he could tell.

Dan unexpectedly interrupts and reminds Fred of the time they first went to Queenstown. I immediately second the motion.

Jesus, says Fred, it's twenty years since we first hit Queenstown. 1957. It was quite a nice town then, before the silver wastes turned the surrounds into some crazy cratered moonscape. We'd mine for the precious stuff, then drink the dirt off in a pub. The pub was the big thing, I guess. To be accepted in one was like being a member of a secret society...

Fred stood by the bar, trying to order a beer. The din around him was enormous. All the sound seemed to cloud the faces and heads, and threw a smoky veil over the room. Dan was around somewhere, though Fred couldn't spot him.

The beer finally came, and Fred settled down to a quiet drink. He soon felt a finger tap on his shoulder, and turned to see the rough-faced clerk who had signed him on two days earlier. They greeted each other, and sat down together; the clerk began to casually query Fred. Getting on with the fellers? Pretty good, Fred replied. Reckon you like the town? Better than some I've known, Fred said with a smile. Got no problems? Fred couldn't think of any.

With no comment, the clerk picked up a beer jug and poured it over Fred's head. The clerk leapt back from the bar, roaring with laughter at the humiliated newcomer. Fred stepped forward and dropped a clenched fist on the clerk's temple. Mouths nearby gaped. The clerk's mouth hardened, and he called half a dozen miners over to the bar. Two of the miners took hold of Fred's arms and dragged him struggling out of the pub and into the night.

Dan, having caught sight of the commotion, quickly moved to follow the group of miners onto the street. Once outside the pub he saw they were taking Fred down to the local park.

In the park James McAuley and I were sitting on a bench. I didn't know who he was, and I'm sure he didn't know who I was. We were just two people perched on a park bench one mining town night in 1957, and violence was converging on us down the street.

The clerk finally stopped the miners in the middle of the half-grassed park. Grouped around Fred, the mob listened as the clerk lectured the newcomer on the virtues required of him. Humility. Courtesy. Respect. You'd spit on the Queen, wouldn't you, boy? Fred let his head hang down, and wondered where Dan was.

'What in hell is going on?', came his reply. The group turned to see Dan with hands on hips. Dan, seeing Fred, said, 'Let the bugger go!'. The clerk sniggered, and knowingly jerked a thumb towards Dan.

While the miners leapt on Dan, the clerk began to pummel Fred. Fred fought back, and the two men were soon scrabbling in the dirt.

From the park bench, the whole scene had looked like the work of part-time actors in rehearsal. As I realised that it was all actually occurring I felt moved to participate. When the miners took to Dan, I at last leapt up and ran over to help him.

The miners seemed grateful for another victim. Three of them backed off Dan, and began to give me heavy torso massage. Blood appeared from nowhere, running down my face. One of the men tried to trip me, but I managed to continue staggering about. If there was one play that we were rehearsing, it must have been 'The Removalists'.

The thought did not strike me that 'The Removalists' had not been written then. What did strike me, however, was that I was being beaten up. It just didn't seem right. Why wasn't I being caressed by vestigial virgins or something?

I was particularly distressed by the fact that there had been no women in the story so far. I mean, this was 1957 - there were no feminists to assault the mighty male ego.

I froze the miners in mid-punch and staggered back to the park bench. There, I put the problem to McAuley. He turned to me and asked whether I knew I was in Tasmania. I nodded and said I did. Well, he continued, you should know why there are no women around. I shook my head. Then I'll have to tell you, McAuley sighed.

What I did not know was that Tasmania had been the scene of one of the worst acts of genocide known. In 1904, the apple island had exterminated its female population. On decree of the Governor, all the womenfolk were driven up the Serpentine River, and drowned in Lake Pedder. One survivor was found near Burnie in 1911 - a woman called Truganini. She was brought down to Hobart, and sentenced to 50 years' sexual perversion with the ministry of the Tasmanian Government. 'She may be still living for all I know', McAuley added.

This information struck me as being rather bizarre. But, then again, the brutality of my fellow countrymen had always been something I found hard to face.

I walked back to the fight, and unfroze the miners. The blood resumed flowing down my face.

Fred finally finishes telling his story, and lets out a good laugh. The fight had been a successful initiation, and the clerk had become Fred's best friend. As I sit laughing with Fred, I realise that Dan is not with us. I get up to find him.

Dan is lying against a far wall, reading the Quadrant I gave him earlier. He seems quite absorbed.

'What are you doing?' I call out to him.

Dan looks up, startled. He hesitantly explains he is reading the McAuley article.

'Load of rubbish, isn't it?' I suggest.

'Far from it', Dan replies. 'I reckon he's a fine writer'.

I am amazed at this. Dan just doesn't appear the sort to be sucked in by right-wing propaganda. I look to Fred, but his eyes avert mine.

'You can't possibly agree with his attacks on the counter-culture?' I demand of Dan.

Dan stares deeply at me, as if he is meditating. 'I glossed over that part of it', he explains, in a lower voice. 'What gets to me is the description of himself. You know, he goes through anarchism and spiritualism and stuff. There's something really deep in him.'

'You poor bastard, Dan', I mutter. 'That's the way you get sucked in. They make all these heavy-sounding phrases, and you end up believing them. What do you think, Fred?'

Fred scrapes his bum over the floor a bit, then replies, 'Don't ask me. All I know about this McAuley is that he is dying downstairs'. He shifts his eyes from me and looks out the thick windows. He appears alarmed. 'Hey, Dan', he says, 'It's getting near dawn. We'll have to get going'.

Dan glances out the windows and nods his head. 'You're right', he comments to Fred. 'The night's gone quick, hasn't it?'

I realise with a shock that we have not slept at all.

'Sure has', assents Fred. Turning to me he says, 'Well, it's been good of you to have us here. We'll have to go now'.

'Why is that?' I question.

Both men hesitate to answer.

'Put it this way', Dan says at last, 'We don't like being around when dawn comes.'

This frightens me. 'You're not vampires, are you?' I ask.

They laugh. 'Oh no, nothing like that', Fred replies. 'We're nothing strange or weird. We're just a couple of drifters'.

'Who walk on water', I add.

Fred looks apologetic. 'Yeah, I guess so', he admits.

Dan touches Fred, and they move over to the stairwell and start descending the stairs. I follow them, a few paces behind. Not one more word is spoken.

At the bottom of the stairs we come across McAuley. Dan and Fred step over him and are about to open the door, when Dan twists his head and says to me, 'You'd better ring up to get some medical help for him'.

'Sure', I respond.

They go through the door into the outside. I quickly follow. It is still dark; the soaked ground shows that a storm has passed during the night. There is only a light drizzle now.

Dan and Fred both shake my hand, and then clamber down the steep path that leads from the lighthouse to the shore. At the bottom of it they stop for a second to wave, then turn to stride out over the swirling water.

They quickly accelerate and commence the hand-in-hand skip I first saw them doing. I watch their happy movements till they disappear from view.

I go back to the lighthouse. Inside, I stand puzzled over the contorted limbs of McAuley. His chest heaves with his spasmodic breaths. I pick him up, balancing him on my left shoulder. I reopen the door, and go outside.

I struggle down the path to the shore, and throw the body on the pebbly beach. Beside McAuley I sit down, and gaze at the sky and sea. The drizzle soon wets me to the skin, but I sit, transfixed. Something about Dan and Fred has disturbed me. I try to listen to the wind and waves, but they are obliterated by my thoughts.

POEMS

I see an army moving across the ocean. It is an army of blank-faced cardboard figures; they march past me, never wavering. They all seem familiar, though I don't know how. They are getting soggy in the rain, and will eventually collapse in a mass of pulp. I sit there and stare at it all. Cardboard people and soggy pulp.

Dawn finally comes, and half-lights the clouded sky. I slowly thread back from my reverie; water is dripping off the end of my nose, and I begin sniffing.

I turn to McAuley and find him, slumped, still. Dead. The pre-dawn chill has killed him. His body heaped behind it, his agonised face lies crushed against the pebbles.

I wonder where that yacht is.

David Browne

GAME REVIEW: DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS by Martin Ellison

If you don't like Lord of the Rings or science fiction, stop reading. This isn't for you, go back to your room and study your accountancy.

You can forget all you though games had to be: the game never ends, it only gets adjourned. There are no sides, no winners or losers — only survivors. There aren't FIXED rules, there's a referee who maps out the world, decides the results of the players' actions, and can change the rules whenever he likes. Of course, it isn't an ordinary real world. There are strange monsters in hidden places, but if you can kill them you can get the treasure they guard. You can use magic to help you, but you must watch out for the fiendish traps. A typical "adventure" might go like this:

You are standing among the ruins of an old castle, looking at a flight of steps leading down into the darkness. You wear plate mail and have your sword ready. With you are a dwarf, a hobbit with a cross-bow and a green-robed wizard. You offer prayers to the Lawful Gods, the wizard lights a torch and you lead down the steps.

You are in a stone-hewn corridor about five feet wide and eight feet high. You go down about fifty feet and to each side you see a heavy wood door bound with iron bands. The hobbit can't pick the lock, so after a brief consultation you and the dwarf run at the door. It opens, inside are fine rough man-like creatures, but shorter with thick hairy skin: goblins. You have the advantage of surprise, and you start laying into the nearest ones with your sword, and the dwarf with his axe. The hobbit fires off a couple of bolts at the furthest goblin, then starts in with his sword when it comes over to complain. You kill your goblin, the hobbit is doing well but the other three have the dwarf surrounded and he's looking bad. So the wizard raises his hand and writes in the air while reciting: THANAT. A green glow jumps from his hand to the nearest goblin, which shrieks as if burning, and dies. You kill the rest: five dead goblins. The wizard adds to the map he's been drawing.

You search their bodies. Nothing. The room is full of junk, bones, rag. You start rummaging and find a sack: a hundred gold pieces, a fortune for a farm labourer. You split it up and put it in your back packs and are on the point of leaving when the wizard finds a small knob on the wall. Standing to one side he flicks it up; two poisoned darts spring out just missing his hand, and a panel falls open. Inside is an old moldering

scroll of parchment and a sword. You take it, it has strange lines along the side and has a magical feel to it. The magician casts a spell to read the forgotten language

on the scroll then suddenly feels compelled to follow its directions to the lost armour of a long dead king. The scroll was cursed, but if you survive the armour might be useful. And so back to the nearby village to wait for the dwarf to recover before satisfying the scroll-guest.

And so on. And as time goes by, the players get more money (to buy mercenaries) and experience (when you get enough experience you go up a level which increases your powers). Players progress to the ability to tackle nastier monsters until they also set up their own castle and territory. Then other younger and more desperate players start attacking them....

That is what happens in the imaginary world. In the real world the referee (or "Dungeon Master" as he is denominated) sits to one side with maps of the world, the various levels of the dungeons and whatever else he has devised, and a key ("48 = two arcs with 200 gold pieces") and the rules and dice. The players sit around a map they have drawn of where they have been and argue about what to do. They can ask questions of the ref — ("What do I see?") and announce what they are doing ("We move down the corridor", "We search the wall" (for hidden openings)). He compares this against his map and key, and tells them what happens. If something happens, like meeting a monster or walking over a trapdoor, he consults the rules, throws dice to add a random element, and decides the result.

The main problem with this game, is the demands it places on the imagination of the referee — who has to adjudicate everything, and create all this world. It is also addictive; once anyone has played it they keep coming back and demanding more adventures.

What does it require? For the players nothing. A referee, however, has to buy the rules (\$40 from Napoleon's bookshop in Sydney). However, if you want to play it (and run the risk of addiction) you can drop me a note at Bruce Hall. The dungeon is usually open on Saturday night.

Accountancy people resume reading here.

LARK IN THE EVENING
(TRADITIONAL FOLK MUSIC)
CHILDERS STREET, HALL
SUNDAYS 8 - 11.30pm

STUDENTS \$1.50 50c CHILDREN

AN OLD MAN

Now that I am old,
the sky is clear, and cold,
the rats are hauled across the floor,
and black and dead laid by my door.

I though my life could never end
nor could the scent from trees
that summer sends,
I have sat amongst the blowing
blossom now, I know
my life go as
these blossoms of passionate yellow.

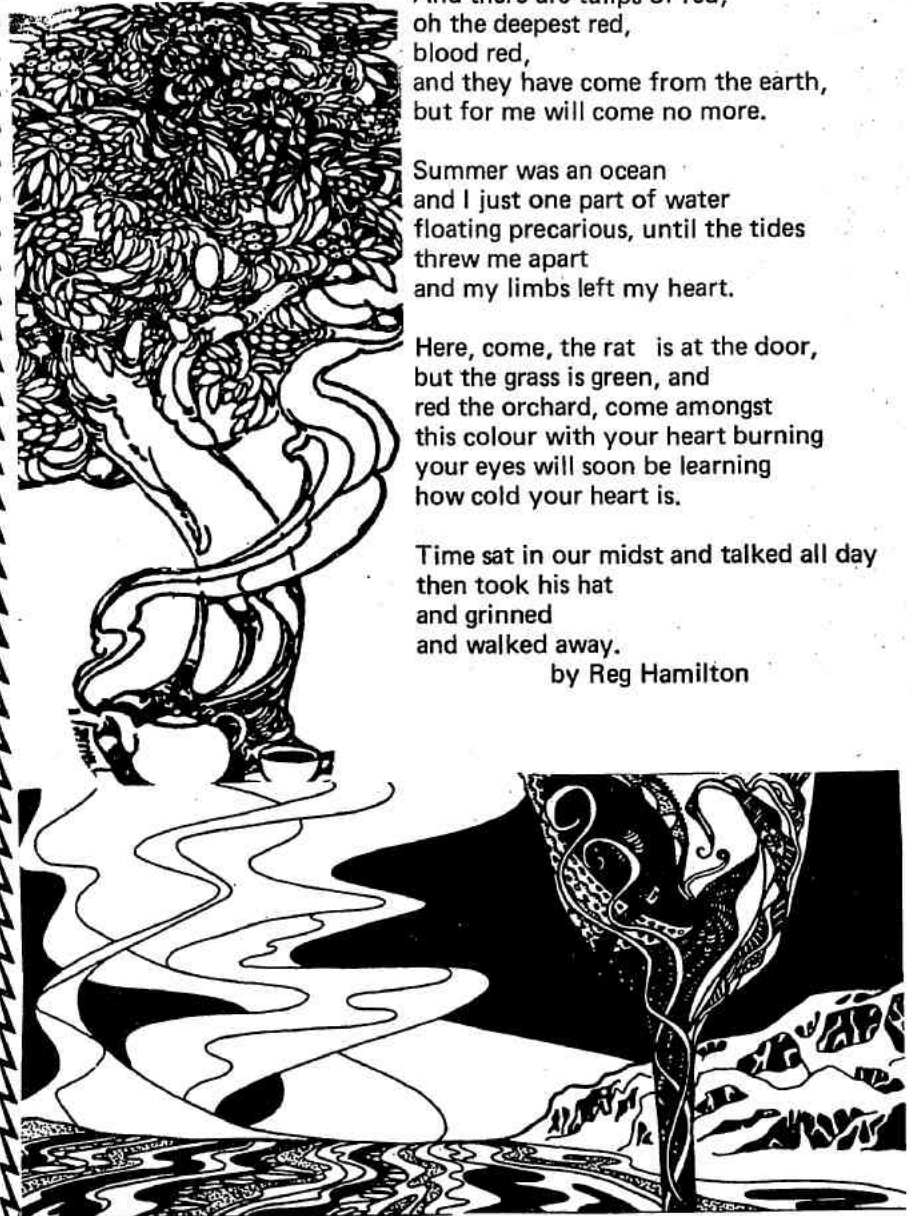
And there are tulips of red,
oh the deepest red,
blood red,
and they have come from the earth,
but for me will come no more.

Summer was an ocean
and I just one part of water
floating precarious, until the tides
threw me apart
and my limbs left my heart.

Here, come, the rat is at the door,
but the grass is green, and
red the orchard, come amongst
this colour with your heart burning
your eyes will soon be learning
how cold your heart is.

Time sat in our midst and talked all day
then took his hat
and grinned
and walked away.

by Reg Hamilton



Against a blaze of colour, at the centre
hummed a bee through the air, but in an
air liquid with scent, and a voice in my head
that went on and on.

'What do I think of the trees
now that it is summer, and the trees give shade?'
'I do not know, I do not know, but that
the heart of the fire is what my heart should know'

'What do I think of the world? Has the
sun told you what you were sent for?'
I do not know, I do not know, with the
bee in the liquid air making a noise like

a small engine in my head
Through the forest flew bees and
there were hundreds of them, through the blaze
of indistinct colours, the bees probed the flowers and
the air like waves of scent.

'Who sent you?'
'I do not know, I do not know', lost in a
blaze of colour and the bees were like
demonic engines.

by Reg Hamilton

Where is Fraser taking us?



It would be nice to know — but even Blind Freddy could tell you that The Australian Financial Review is the business newspaper which gives students of commerce and economics, as well as laymen, the best chance of picking the path ahead.

All this week, the Financial Review is publishing a special series on the record of the Fraser government and the possible directions our political leaders could choose in the future.

Don't miss "Where is Fraser taking us?" in the Financial Review, all this week.

THE AUSTRALIAN
FINANCIAL REVIEW

All this week.